

Nº 2  
APRIL-  
MAY

# SEARCH *for* LOVE

10¢

DON'T YOU REALIZE  
YOU'RE THROWING FAME  
AWAY, YOU LITTLE FOOL...  
AND FOR WHAT?... A  
SILLY, ROMANTIC  
DELUSION!

YOU'VE DOMINATED ME ALL MY  
LIFE, TRIED TO CRUSH EVERY HUMAN  
EMOTION I EVER HAD! BUT THERE'S  
SOMETHING YOU *CAN'T* DESTROY...  
MY LOVE!

IS ROMANCE ALL TENDER-  
NESS... OR CAN IT THRILL  
SAVAGELY? READ THE  
GRIPPING ANSWER IN  
*THE GREATEST ADVENTURE!*





WEB COMIC  
UNIVERSE.COM



# HAVE A SLIMMER YOUTHFUL FEMININE APPEARANCE INSTANTLY! **REDUCE**

Don't look old before your time. Do as thousands of others do, wear a comfortable new and improved UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT! The UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT, with the amazing new adjustable front panel, controls your figure the way you want it, with added support where you need it most. Simply adjust the laces and PRESTO your mid section is reshaped and your back braced and you look and feel younger!



**Your Appearance!  
Look and Feel Like  
Sixteen Again!**

No other girdle or supporter belt has more hold-in power! The Up-Lift Adjust-O-Belt is the newest, most comfortable girdle I ever had.

## More Up-Lift and Hold-in Power!

The UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT takes weight off tired feet and gives you a more alluring, more daringly feminine, curvaceous figure the instant you put it on. It gives you lovely curves just in the right places, with no unwanted bulges in the wrong ones. It whittles your waistline to nothingness, no matter what shape you may now have. It's easily adjusted — always comfortable!

## Test the ADJUST-O-BELT Up-Lift Principle with Your Own Hands!

Clasp your hands over your abdomen, press upwards and in gently but firmly. You feel better don't you! That's just what the UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT does for you, only the ADJUST-O-BELT does it better. Mail Coupon and test it at home for 10 days FREE at our expense!



## Appear Slimmer, and Feel Better!

The UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT lifts and flattens unsightly bulges, comfortably, quickly, firmly. It readjusts easily to changes in your figure, yet no laces touch your body. It gives instant slenderizing figure control. It fashionably shapes your figure to its slimmest lines. Like magic the UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT obeys your every wish. Pounds and inches seem to disappear instantly from waist, hips and thighs. You can adjust it to your slimmed down figure as your figure changes. It gives the same fit and comfort you get from a made to order costing 2 or 3 times the price. It washes like a dream.

Style: Panty and regular. Colors: Nude and white. It's made of the finest stretch material used in any girdle, with a pure satin front panel and made by the most skilled craftsmen. It's light in weight, but powerfully strong. It won't roll up, bulge or curl at the top. It gives extra-double support where you need it most. No other girdle at any price can give you better support, can make you look better, feel better or appear slimmer. Sizes 24 to 44 waist. Only **\$3.98**

## MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE WITH A 10-DAY FREE TRIAL

If the UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT isn't better than any supporter you ever had, if you don't feel more comfortable, if you don't look and feel younger, if your shape isn't 100% IMPROVED, if you are not delighted with it, return it and your money will be refunded in full.

**FREE:** New amazing NYLON laces will be sent free with your order. Try them instead of your regular laces. You may keep them FREE even if you return the girdle.

## SEND NO MONEY

ADJUST-O-BELT CO., Dept. 242  
1023 Broad St., Newark, New Jersey

Rush your new and improved UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT for \$3.98 in size and style check.

- ☐ Regular. ☐ Panty.  
☐ C.O.D. I will pay postage, plus handling.  
☐ I enclose \$3.98. You pay postage, plus handling.  
CHECK SIZE: ☐ Sm. (25-26). ☐ Med. (27-28).  
☐ Lg. (29-30). ☐ XL (31-32). ☐ XXL (34-36).  
☐ XXXL (38-40). ☐ XXXXL (42-44).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Zone \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

I understand if not delighted with the UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT, I can return it in 10 days for full purchase price refund.

## SENT ON APPROVAL!



You will look like and feel like this beautiful model in your new and improved Up-Lift Adjust-O-Belt.

# I Stumbled Into Love



MOST GIRLS REMEMBER CHILDHOOD AS A TIME OF CAREFREE, BOISTEROUS FUN -- BUT THERE WAS ONE THING IN MY CHILDHOOD THAT LATER TURNED HEART THROBS INTO HEARTBREAK! MY **AWKWARDNESS** WAS SOMETHING **I COULDN'T CONQUER** -- IT TURNED ROMANCE INTO A HUMILIATING FARCE -- UNTIL THE DAY **I STUMBLED INTO LOVE!**



"All kids take tumbles now and then, and think nothing of it -- but in **MY** case --"

**OOOPS!**

OH, AUDREY -- YOUR NEW DRESS! YOU'LL JUST **HAVE** TO BE LESS ACTIVE, DEAR -- YOU **KNOW** HOW AWKWARD YOU ARE!



"With **THAT** idea drummed into me -- is it any wonder that I grew up with the belief I was hopelessly clumsy? I shunned dances -- anything that promised active fun -- until one night --"

JIM, PLEASE DON'T TRY ANY FANCY STEPS! I CAN'T -- **OH!**

YE GODS, AUDREY -- **WATCH IT!**



MAYBE YOU'D BETTER GIVE ME A LITTLE ADVANCE NOTICE BEFORE OUR NEXT DATE, BABY -- SO I CAN BRING A COUPLE OF **CANES!**

D-DON'T BOTHER! THERE WON'T **BE** A NEXT DATE!



"I knew I had to do **SOMETHING** to improve my coordination --or skun romance forever! Gaining courage from the first pangs of loneliness.. I decided to learn horseback riding!"

HE'S THE TAMEST CRITTER WE'VE GOT, MISS -- THE ONE WE GENERALLY RESERVE FOR KIDS!

GOOO--THAT'S MY SPEED!

OR IS IT? HERE I AM HARDLY ABLE TO WALK WITHOUT FALLING FLAT--AND I'VE GOT A YEN TO RIDE!

SADDLE HORSES \$2.00 HOUR

"I told myself I mustn't lose my nerve-- and I WOULDN'T have -- if I'd been looking the other way a few minutes later!"

THAT'S THE WAY I USED TO BE! SHE'LL OUTGROW IT-- BUT I DIDN'T--AND I NEVER WILL!

"My head reeled ... Suddenly the quietly loping horse seemed to be a creature terribly high -- and moving terribly fast!"

SUPPOSE I FALL **NOW**? I CAN'T HOLD MYSELF IN THE SADDLE! I -- I CAN'T EVEN HOLD THE REINS!

"Sensing my terror, the horse sped along the bridle path--**UNCHECKED!**"

H-HELP!

GREAT GUNS!

KEEP YOUR HEAD! GRAB HIS MANE! --**TIGHT!**

IT'S NO USE! I'M **SLIPPING!**

"I'll never forget the first time Terry Scott's arm encircled my waist! It wasn't only that my life was saved-- but from that moment on, it was changed forever!"

WHOA!

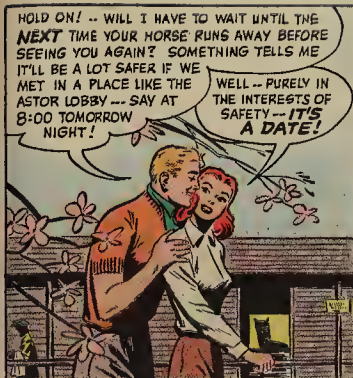
RELAX, HONEY-- YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT!

"For just a moment, his strong grasp held me after lifting me down --giving my heart a **NEW** reason to pound!"

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER I CAN BLAME THAT NAG FOR WANTING TO RUN AWAY WITH YOU! IN FACT, I'D TRY IT MYSELF -- WITH VERY LITTLE COAXING!

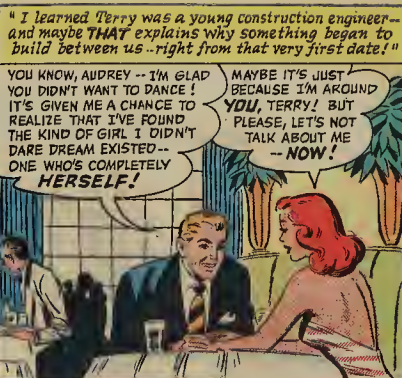
NO, THANKS-- I'VE HAD ENOUGH FOR ONE DAY! IT--IT WAS REALLY WONDERFUL OF YOU TO HELP, THOUGH!





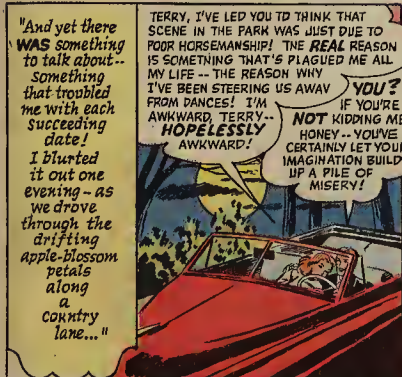
HOLD ON! -- WILL I HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE **NEXT** TIME YOUR HORSE RUNS AWAY BEFORE SEEING YOU AGAIN? SOMETHING TELLS ME IT'LL BE A LOT SAFER IF WE MET IN A PLACE LIKE THE ASTOR LOBBY -- SAY AT 8:00 TOMORROW NIGHT!

WELL -- PURELY IN THE INTERESTS OF SAFETY -- **IT'S A DATE!**



YOU KNOW, AUDREY -- I'M GLAD YOU DIDN'T WANT TO DANCE! IT'S GIVEN ME A CHANCE TO REALIZE THAT I'VE FOUND THE KIND OF GIRL I DIDN'T DARE DREAM EXISTED -- ONE WHO'S COMPLETELY **HERSELF!**

MAYBE IT'S JUST BECAUSE I'M AROUND **YOU, TERRY!** BUT PLEASE, LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT ME -- **NOW!**



"And yet there **WAS** something to talk about -- something that troubled me with each succeeding date! I blurted it out one evening -- as we drove through the drifting apple-blossom petals along a country lane..."

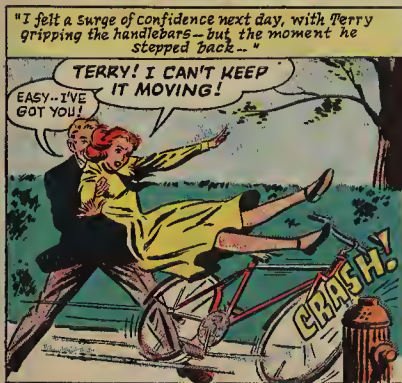
TERRY, I'VE LED YOU TO THINK THAT SCENE IN THE PARK WAS JUST DUE TO POOR HORSEMANSHIP! THE **REAL** REASON IS SOMETHING THAT'S PLAGUED ME ALL MY LIFE -- THE REASON WHY I'VE BEEN STEERING US AWAY FROM DANCES! I'M AWKWARD, TERRY -- **HOPELESSLY AWKWARD!**

**YOU?** IF YOU'RE NOT KIDDING ME, HONEY -- YOU'VE CERTAINLY LET YOUR IMAGINATION BUILD UP A PILE OF MISERY!



SUPPOSE I **PROVE** IT'S ALL STRICTLY IN THE MIND? THERE'S BEEN AN OLD BICYCLE GATHERING DUST IN MY CELLAR FOR YEARS -- AND TOMORROW I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU THAT YOU CAN LEARN TO RIDE IT!

I'VE NEVER DARED GET ON A BIKE BEFORE, TERRY -- **BUT I'LL TRY IT!**

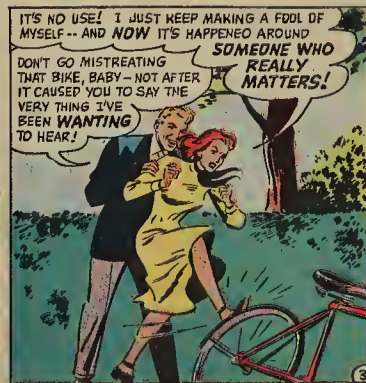


"I felt a surge of confidence next day, with Terry gripping the handlebars -- but the moment he stepped back --"

**TERRY! I CAN'T KEEP IT MOVING!**

EASY -- I'VE GOT YOU!

**CRASH!**



IT'S NO USE! I JUST KEEP MAKING A FOOL OF MYSELF -- AND **NOW** IT'S HAPPENED AROUND

**SOMEONE WHO REALLY MATTERS!**

DON'T GO MISTREATING THAT BIKE, BABY -- NOT AFTER IT CAUSED YOU TO SAY THE VERY THING I'VE BEEN **WANTING** TO HEAR!

I'M THE ONE WHO HAS IT TOUGH! YOU'LL GET OVER YOUR AWKWARDNESS -- BUT I'LL NEVER GET OVER YOU! WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IF I CONFESSED -- I LOVED YOU?

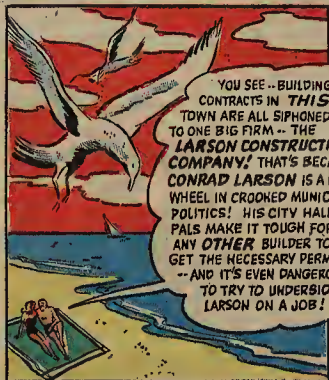
THIS IS NO TIME FOR WORDS... DARLING!



"From then on, every moment was a melody -- a refrain that sounded like a muted violin every time our eyes met -- every time our lips and fingers touched!"

TERRY, DO YOU KNOW HOW WONDERFUL IT IS TO JUST LIE BACK AND RELAX -- AND FEEL **SURE** OF THE FUTURE?

I WISH I COULD, HONEY! I DON'T MEAN THERE'S ANY DOUBT ABOUT YOU -- BUT MY CONSTRUCTION CAREER SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN OFF ON A MIGHTY ROCKY START -- FOR SOMEONE WHO GRADUATED WITH ENGINEERING HONORS!

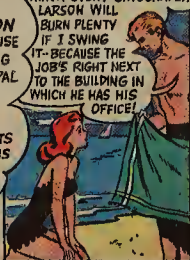


YOU SEE -- BUILDING CONTRACTS IN **THIS** TOWN ARE ALL SIPHONED TO ONE BIG FIRM -- THE **LARSON CONSTRUCTION COMPANY!** THAT'S BECAUSE **CONRAD LARSON** IS A BIG WHEEL IN CROOKED MUNICIPAL POLITICS! HIS CITY HALL PALS MAKE IT TOUGH FOR ANY **OTHER** BUILDER TO GET THE NECESSARY PERMITS -- AND IT'S EVEN DANGEROUS TO TRY TO UNDERBID LARSON ON A JOB!

I'VE PUT UP ENOUGH OF A SQUAWK TO MAKE SURE OF ONE THING -- LARSON CAN'T HOLD UP MY BUILDING PERMITS! **NOW** I'M READY FOR THE NEXT STEP!

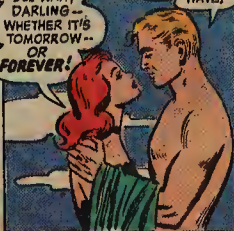
I'M GOING TO OUTBUILD AND OUTBID HIM -- AND GET THE CONTRACT FOR THAT PROPOSED THIRTY-STORY SKYSCRAPER!

LARSON WILL BURN PLENTY IF I SWING IT -- BECAUSE THE JOB'S RIGHT NEXT TO THE BUILDING IN WHICH HE HAS HIS OFFICE!



SEE WHAT I'M UP AGAINST, PET? I MAY SNATCH THE CONTRACT FROM RIGHT UNDER LARSON'S NOSE -- BUT IF I **DON'T** -- IT'S GOING TO BE QUITE A WHILE BEFORE I CAN INVEST IN THE KIND OF WEDDING RING I WANT YOU TO HAVE!

YOU KNOW I'LL WAIT, DARLING -- WHETHER IT'S TOMORROW -- OR FOREVER!



"There had been a glow like a low-banked fire in Terry's eyes the first time we kissed -- and now, several months later, I saw it again -- and again, it was something I could share in a surge of happiness!"

IT'S A **CONTRACT!** OH, TERRY -- THE SKYSCRAPER! **YOU'RE BUILDING IT!**

AND WHY NOT -- WITH A BID THAT WAS 20% LESS THAN **LARSON'S!** ALL I WANT NOW IS A CHANCE TO DO AN HONEST AND EFFICIENT JOB -- AND SHOW THIS TOWN HOW IT'S BEEN FLEEDED, YEAR AFTER YEAR, BY LARSON AND HIS POLITICAL CRONIES!

THAT'S WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO, DARLING! -- BUT AFTER ALL THESE TERRIBLE THINGS YOU'VE TOLD ME ABOUT CONRAD LARSON, I'M **AFRAID** -- NOW THAT HE'S FOUND SOMEONE BRAVE ENOUGH TO CROSS HIM!

DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU, AUDREY! LARSON MAY HAVE THE TOWN IN HIS POCKET -- BUT HE'S NOT GOING TO STOP ME FROM THE THING **YOU'VE** MADE IMPORTANT -- **MY CAREER!**



"Terry's breezy confidence reassured me! But I wish I had known what was happening at that very moment -- when the news of Terry's contract hit City Hall like a bombshell!"

LOOK, LARSON -- I TELL YOU IT WASN'T MY FAULT! NO ONE'S EVER BID AGAINST YOU BEFORE -- SO WE DIDN'T THINK TWICE ABOUT OPENING THE BIDS RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE CITY COUNCILMEN! THEY'RE HONEST, THE DOPES -- WE HAD TO GIVE TERRY SCOTT'S FIRM THE CONTRACT!

MUNICIPAL ENGINEER

ALL RIGHT -- LET HIM START BUILDING HIS SKYSCRAPER! I'LL TELL YOU THIS MUCH -- HE'LL NEVER FINISH IT!

"Six months before, I didn't know a girder from a hole in the ground! But now that the skyscraper was Terry's main interest, I haunted the construction site -- because HE WAS MINE!"

I THINK IT'S TERRIFIC YOU'VE GOT THAT MUCH STEEL IN PLACE IN JUST FIFTY DAYS, TERRY -- AND WITHOUT A SINGLE HITCH!

I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT! WAIT HERE A MOMENT, HONEY!

SCOTT CONSTRUCTION CORP.

I SAY SOMEONE'S GONNA GET HURT AROUND THIS JOB -- WITH THINGS GOING LIKE THEY ARE! ARE WE GONNA WAIT FOR AN ACCIDENT -- OR ARE WE GONNA WALK OUT NOW?

NOT SO FAST, JOHNSON! WHAT'S YOUR BEEF?

OKAY, SMART BOY -- I'LL TELL YOU! WE WANT TO WORK WITH AN ENGINEER WHO STICKS TO HIS JOB -- INSTEAD OF CHEWING THE FAT WITH ANY BROAD WHO COMES ALONG!

PICK UP AND SHOVE, MUGG -- YOU'RE FIRED! I'LL GIVE YOU JUST FIVE MINUTES TO CLEAR OFF THE LOT!

"In an agonized flash, I saw Johnson's immense fist shoot out -- but then -- as Terry sidestepped..."

UF!

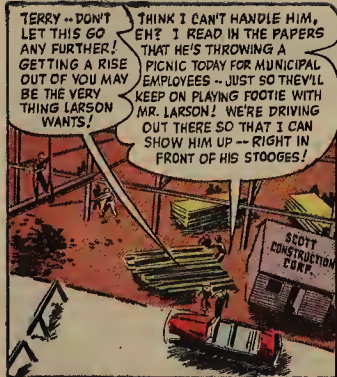
POW!

"My heart pounded as I watched! This was a NEW glimpse of the Terry who had always been so tender and soft-spoken -- and I felt a thrill of savage pride!"

JOHNSON, YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET THE OTHER MEN TO WALK OFF THE JOB FOR OVER A WEEK! IT ISN'T A QUESTION OF WAGES OR SAFETY -- SO SUPPOSE YOU TELL ME?

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT -- CONRAD LARSON PAID ME TO STIR UP TROUBLE! YOU OUGHTA KNOW HOW MR. BIG FEELS ABOUT THIS JOB, SCOTT!





TERRY -- DON'T LET THIS GO ANY FURTHER! GETTING A RISE OUT OF YOU MAY BE THE VERY THING LARSON WANTS!

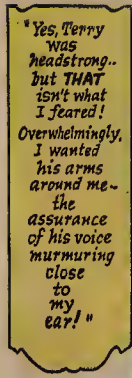
THINK I CAN'T HANDLE HIM, EH? I READ IN THE PAPERS THAT HE'S THROWING A PICNIC TODAY FOR MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES -- JUST SO THEY'LL KEEP ON PLAYING FOOTIE WITH MR. LARSON! WE'RE DRIVING OUT THERE SO THAT I CAN SHOW HIM UP -- RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIS STOOGES!

"Is it possible for a woman in love to sense things -- to feel an unknown shadow falling across the path of romance? Something warned me -- something I couldn't get across to Terry!"



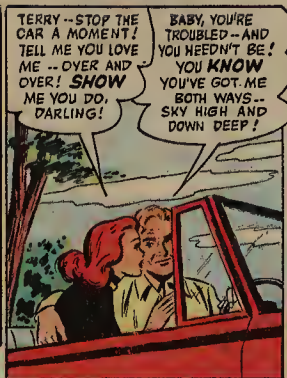
DARLING, WHY GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO ANTAGONIZE LARSON? YOU'VE GOT THE CONTRACT -- AND ALL THAT SHOULD INTEREST US IS YOUR CAREER! PLEASE -- CAN'T WE JUST IGNORE HIM?

IGNORING A MAN AS RICH AND POWERFUL AS CONRAD LARSON DOESN'T PAN OUT, AUDREY! HE'S THE KID WHO'LL TRAMPLE YOU FLAT UNLESS HE'S PULLED UP SHORT -- AND I'M GOING TO DO IT!



"Yes, Terry was headstrong... but THAT isn't what I feared!

Overwhelmingly, I wanted his arms around me -- the assurance of his voice murmuring close to my ear!"

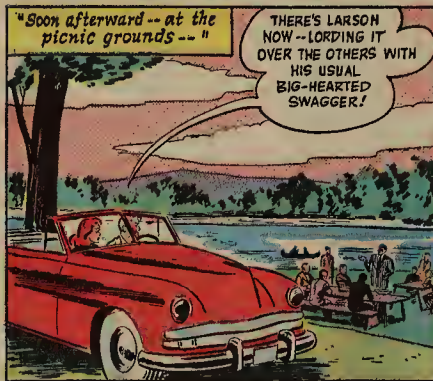


TERRY -- STOP THE CAR A MOMENT! TELL ME YOU LOVE ME -- OVER AND OVER! SHOW ME YOU DO, DARLING!

BABY, YOU'RE TROUBLED -- AND YOU NEEDN'T BE! YOU KNOW YOU'VE GOT ME BOTH WAYS -- SKY HIGH AND DOWN DEEP!



"Just a moment ... But it was one of those moments with Terry that are etched in fire on my heart -- the flaring moments that show how much LOVE can mean!"



"Soon afterward -- at the picnic grounds --"

THERE'S LARSON NOW -- LORDING IT OVER THE OTHERS WITH HIS USUAL BIG-HEARTED SWAGGER!



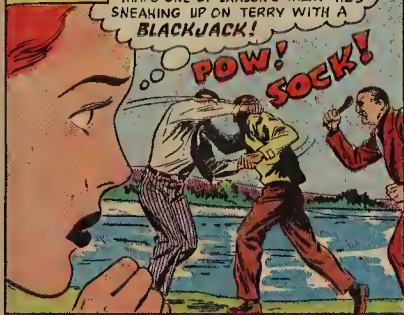
LARSON, I'VE LEARNED YOU'RE TRYING TO FOUL UP MY FIRST CONSTRUCTION JOB! I JUST THOUGHT I'D DROP AROUND AND TELL YOU THAT BEFORE YOU STOP THAT PROJECT -- YOU'LL HAVE TO BE BIG ENOUGH TO STOP ME!

HATE TO SPOIL A CAREFREE AFTERNOON, FOLKS -- BUT OUR FRIEND HERE IS GOING TO GET WHAT HE'S ASKING FOR!

"Something in me quivered as the thudding blows struck home -- and then -- as I turned my head --"

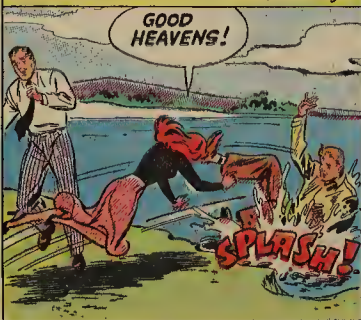
THAT'S ONE OF LARSON'S MEN! HE'S SNEAKING UP ON TERRY WITH A **BLACKJACK!**

**POW! SOCK!**



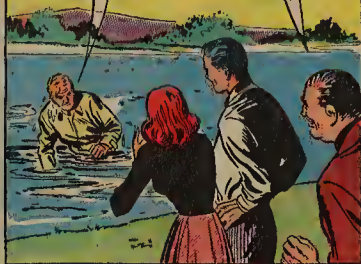
"My one thought was for Terry as I rushed forward -- but I didn't take my **AWKWARDNESS** into account! I tripped -- sprawling headlong!"

**GOOD HEAVENS!**



THAT WAS CERTAINLY A PRETTY WELL-TIMED ACCIDENT, AUDREY! TOO WELL-TIMED, FOR MY MONEY!

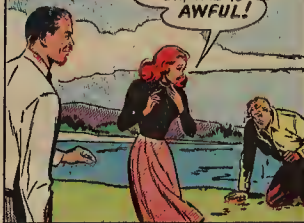
**HA-HA-HA!** BETTER TELL HIM TO CLIMB OUT, BOSS -- BEFORE HE POLLUTES THE LAKE!



"Conrad Larson fixed his cold, appraising gaze on me -- and for a brief instant, I felt a strange fascination in those demanding eyes!"

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU TRIED TO HELP ME, KID -- BUT YOU CERTAINLY DID A SLICK JOB! I DON'T OFTEN RUN INTO A GIRL WHO KNOWS JUST WHAT TO DO AT THE RIGHT MOMENT -- AND I'M GOING TO KEEP YOU IN MIND!

B-BUT I WASN'T TRYING -- I MEAN -- OH, THIS IS **AWFUL!**



PLEASE, TERRY -- **KEEP YOUR HEAD!** LET'S GO BACK TO THE CAR AND COOL OFF!

MIGHT AS WELL WIND IT UP, BOSS! WE'VE HAD ENOUGH BAD PUBLICITY AS IT IS -- WITHOUT YOUR GETTING INTO A BRAWL THAT WILL MAKE THE FRONT PAGES!



"I'd looked upon my love for Terry as a bud ready to unfold -- and now it was crumpled -- in a petting torrent of angry words!"

NICE GOING, BABY! YOU MIGHT HAVE FALLEN INTO THE LAKE YOURSELF, SINCE YOU WERE SO ANXIOUS TO ATTRACT LARSON'S ATTENTION -- BUT I DON'T MIND BEING THE FALL GUY! AT LEAST IT OPENED MY EYES TO THE **GAME** YOU'RE PLAYING!

**GAME -- ME?**

OH, TERRY --

**TERRY** -- YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING! WHO SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN YOU HOW AWKWARD I AM?



YOU **BET** I KNOW -- I'M THE ONE WHO WAS TAKEN IN BY IT! IT'S ALL A CHEAP AND CORNY **ACT!** -- FIRST THE RUNAWAY HORSE ANGLE -- THEN THE FALL OFF THE BIKE -- AND NOW **THIS!** YEP, YOU'RE SMART -- PERFECTING THAT "AWKWARD" TECHNIQUE ON **ME** -- AND THEN DECIDING THAT CONRAD LARSON IS A BETTER PROSPECT! KEEP TURNING YOUR ANKLE OFTEN ENOUGH, BABY -- AND YOU'RE BOUND TO TURN HIS HEAD!





"The biting words seared deep-- and I eased their hurt with a rage that clashed against Terry's own! "

NO ONE EVER SPOKE TO ME LIKE THAT! HERE'S THE RING YOU GAVE ME! TAKE IT-- AND I HOPE YOU WRITE EVERY TIME YOU LOOK AT IT!

YOU'RE STILL CORNY! I DON'T BELIEVE IN BEING RUDE-- BUT THE DAY YOU CAME CRAWLING BACK TO ME WITH ANOTHER HAMMY ROUTINE-- I'LL LAUGH IN YOUR FACE!



"That night, two seething emotions tormented me --two unforgettable images filled the sleepless hours! I told myself I hated Terry-- I thought my hot tears would wash away the thought of him!"

YOU KNOW YOU'VE GOT ME BOTH WAYS, BABY...!

IT'S ALL A CNEAP AND CORNY ACT -- ANOTHER HAMMY ROUTINE ---



"Next morning --the jangling phone broke into my restless slumber! "

CONRAD LARSON! BUT YOU **SHOULDN'T** HAVE PHONED ME-- NOT AFTER WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY!

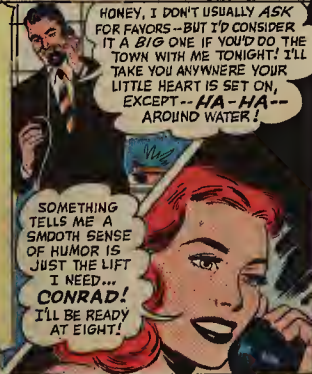
I'M PHONING BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY, SWEETHEART! DIDN'T I SAY I WAS GOING TO KEEP YOU IN MIND?



"Terry had flaunted me with the leering prediction that I'd come crawling back to him! WOULD I? -- A blind impulse told me to make the most of my opportunity... my chance to show him HOW I'd crawl! "

HONEY, I DON'T USUALLY ASK FOR FAVORS--BUT I'D CONSIDER IT A BIG ONE IF YOU'D DO THE TOWN WITH ME TONIGHT! I'LL TAKE YOU ANYWHERE YOUR LITTLE HEART IS SET ON, EXCEPT--**HA-HA--** AROUND WATER!

SOMETHING TELLS ME A SMOOTH SENSE OF HUMOR IS JUST THE LIFT I NEED... **CONRAD!** I'LL BE READY AT EIGHT!



"I counted my dates with Conrad by the number of empty orchid boxes in the bottom of my closet! I was too fascinated how his cold eyes and ruthless smile were dominating my life--and I was having too good a time to care!"

THE GOSSIP COLUMNISTS ARE BEGINNING TO NOTICE WE'RE GOING STEADY, SUGAR-PUSS! IF YOU'VE GOT THE KIND OF YEN I FEEL FOR YOU --MAYBE WE CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, HUH?

EXCUSE ME, MR. LARSON --YOU'RE WAITED ON THE PHONE!



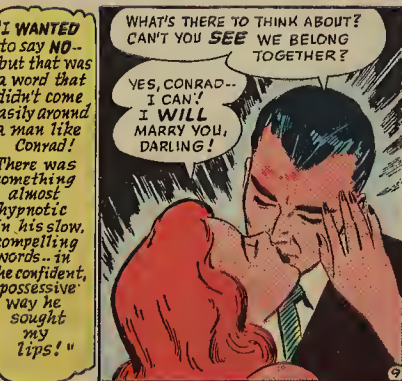
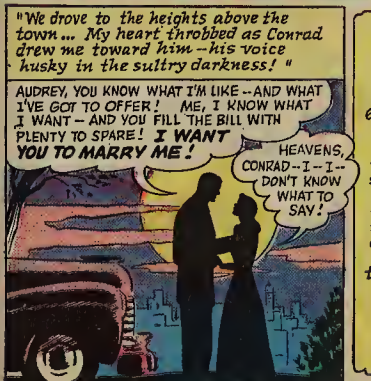
"Then --from one of the nearby shadowed tables..."

SUPPOSE YOU ASK YOURSELF! YOU'RE NOT

**TERRY!** ARE YOU SPYING ON ME --OR JUST WHAT IS THIS?

PLAYING WITH AN UNSUSPECTING CHUMP LIKE ME **THIS** TIME, HONEY! CONRAD LARSON'S **DYNAMITE** --AND FRANKLY, I DON'T THINK YOU'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES WHEN THE BLAST GOES OFF! FOR YOUR **OWN GOOD**--WHY NOT TAKE UP WITH SOMEONE **EASY?**







"Again and again, I told myself I loved him! It was something I didn't dare question -- NOW!"

IT'LL BE A WEDDING THAT'LL STAND THIS TOWN ON ITS EAR! AND AFTERWARD, BABY-- I'M REALLY GOING TO TAKE OVER THE CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS IN THIS BURG! I'VE GOT A MOTIVE, NOW-- SEEING THAT YOU HAVE EVERYTHING YOU WANT-- AND THE ONLY WAY TO DO IT IS TO WIPE OUT MY COMPETITORS!

BUT, CONRAD-- THEY'RE HARDLY WORTH BOTHERING ABOUT! YOU **ALREADY** CONTROL 90% OF THE LOCAL BUILDING CONTRACTS!

"If I had any doubts, they were lost in the rush of pride I felt when I read the society columns! Meanwhile, Conrad showered me with attention-- overwhelmed me with gifts!"

OH, DARLING -- **THAT'S** THE GOWN I WANT! DID YOU EVER SEE ANYTHING SO **BEAUTIFUL**?

I DON'T KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT **CLOTHES**, HONEY-- BUT WHAT ABOUT **THIS**?

WHAT'S THE MATTER, SUGAR-PUSS?-- ISN'T IT **GOOD** ENOUGH FOR YOU? WHEN YOU GET THAT FAR-AWAY LOOK IN YOUR EYES-- I KNOW THERE'S SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND!

IT'S NOT YOU, CONRAD-- HONESTLY! I WAS JUST THINKING OF THE INSULTS I'VE TAKEN FROM TERRY SCOTT-- AND HOW MUCH I **BURN** TO GET EVEN!

YOU KNOW -- I'M BEGINNING TO THINK YOU HATE THAT GUY ALMOST AS MUCH AS I DO! I'VE BEEN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO FIX HIS WAGON **GOOD**-- AND I GUESS YOU AND I ARE CLOSE ENOUGH TO LET YOU IN ON IT! BE DOWN AT MY OFFICE AT NOON TOMORROW -- AND I'LL SHOW YOU HOW WE CAN **BOTH** GET EVEN!

HONEY-- **THAT'S** SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO!

"I didn't realize what a vast gulf separated MY 'getting even' -- and Conrad's! Next day..."

HEH-HEH-- WILL YOU! YOU OUGHT TO KNOW BY NOW, BABY -- I DO THINGS IN A **BIG WAY**!

Suddenly -- before my unbelieving eyes -- "

**BOOM!**

MY GOD, CONRAD-- I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO DO ANYTHING LIKE **THIS**! IF THAT STEELWORKER ROLLS OFF THE GIRDER-- **HE'LL BE KILLED!**

**THAT'S** SOMETHING I CAN'T WORRY ABOUT, BABY! THIS IS A TOUGH GAME WITH TOUGH RULES-- AND SOMEONE'S GOT TO GET HURT!

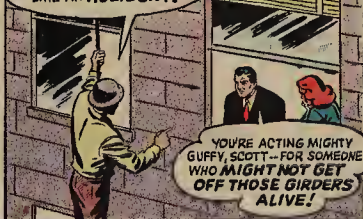
"Conrad's callous unconcern was bad enough... but what **REALLY** made me tremble was the diabolical hatred that flashed across his face in the next instant!"

**TERRY SCOTT!** THAT WOULD HAPPEN--HAVING HIM COME UP TO SAVE THAT WORKMAN! I RACK MY BRAINS FOR A WAY TO **FIX** THAT GUY--AND I WIND UP MAKING A **HERO** OUT OF HIM! WELL, **WE'LL SEE**--THERE'S A LOT OF STEEL HANGING LOOSE UP THERE!



"I'd come to Larson's office eager for revenge --and now I wilted under the scornful eyes of the man I thought I wanted to hurt!"

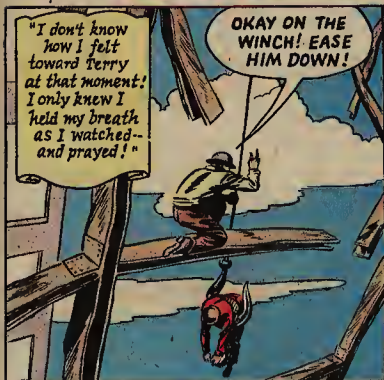
YOU SHOULD HAVE TAKEN YOUR COMPANY LABEL OFF THAT BOX OF DYNAMITE, RAT --PART OF IT WAS BLASTED DOWN TO THE STREET! FUNNY YOU TWO DEADBEATS COULDN'T FIGURE OUT SOMETHING THAT WOULD LOOK A LITTLE MORE LIKE AN **ACCIDENT**!



YOU'RE ACTING MIGHTY GUFFY, SCOTT--FOR SOMEONE WHO **MIGHT NOT GET OFF THOSE GIRDERS ALIVE!**

"I don't know how I felt toward Terry at that moment! I only knew I held my breath as I watched--and prayed!"

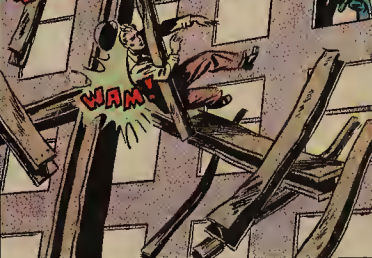
OKAY ON THE WINCH! EASE HIM DOWN!



"Then -- as a huge mass of girders crunched loose --"

**TERRY!** HE'S KNOCKED OUT--HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FREE HIMSELF!

**CRASH!**



"I felt the roar that followed in every nerve--seeing the shattered framework give way--and myself with it!"

**CARUNCH!**

CONRAD--THE WHOLE STRUCTURE'S SWINGING SIDEWISE! IT'S READY TO COLLAPSE--AND **TERRY--TERRY WILL BE KILLED!**

FOR THE LOVE OF MIKE--GET A **GRIP** ON YOURSELF! I DIDN'T PLAN IT EXACTLY **THIS** WAY--BUT WEREN'T YOU NEEDING ME ABOUT GETTING EVEN? MIGHT AS WELL CALM DOWN, BABY--**BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT!**



"Sometimes it takes a tragedy to bring a blinding flash of truth--and mine came now!

Yes, I'd wanted to hurt Terry --but only his pride--the pride that had been a barrier to **MY LOVE!**"

YOU WRETCH--**YOU MURDERER!** YOU WERE READY TO **KILL** TERRY AND CHARGE IT TO MY WANTING TO GET EVEN-- BUT YOU MIGHT AS WELL **KILL ME, TOO, BECAUSE I LOVE HIM -- I LOVE HIM!**

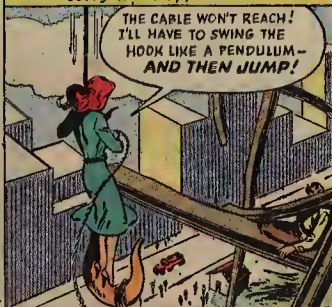




"Fast action MIGHT save Terry - if there was enough split-second timing, expert balance, and unruffled nerve to go with it! Awkward or not--**AFRAID** or not--**THOSE** were the things I had to supply!"



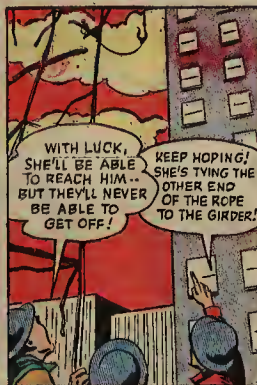
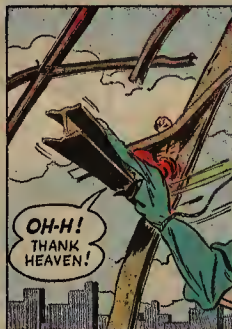
"Numbly, I signaled to the crane operator far below - and as the huge hook swung dizzily toward the girder on which Terry was trapped -- "



"I whizzed out - yards out, while the street reeled sickeningly below me -- then back -- with my moist hands barely keeping their grip on the cable! "



"I let go--felt the terrifying rush of my body through yawning space--and then--"

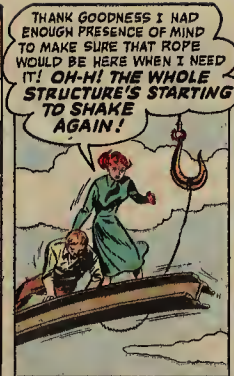
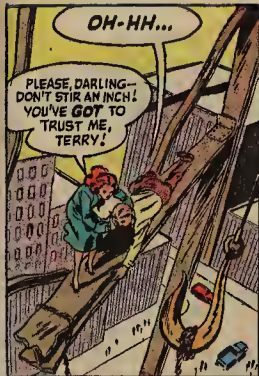


"I felt the girder shake under each faltering footstep -- with only a few inches of unsteady steel between me and hurtling death! But I looked ahead -- keeping my eyes on Terry!"

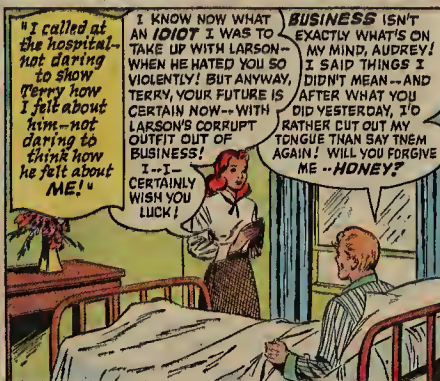
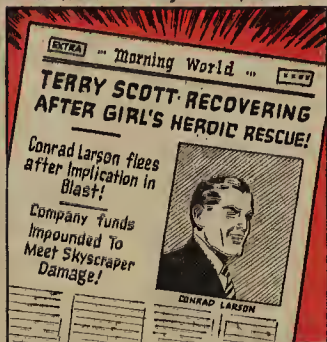


"And I DID! Desperately, I pushed against the girder under which Terry was pinned -- my fingers raw as it fell gratefully aside! "





"The rest? Well, here's **PART** of it--  
in next morning's newspaper!"





# (TOO) Beautiful for Words

LYNN'S mind and heart were made up. She was in love, terribly, completely in love. How many girls would have given everything to be in love as Lynn Martin was . . . and to be as beautiful as Lynn?

She wondered about this a bit wistfully. There were times when she hated her beauty, for while it attracted John Howard and made him proud of her in a certain way, it served as a barrier between them.

"You're too pretty to think about serious things," John would say, chucking her under the chin. Or "Don't worry your gorgeous red head about my little problems, beautiful!"

"But I want to worry about them, John!" Lynn would insist. "I know you've been worried about the way things are going and . . ."

It was no use. Although he was wonderful, John was like other men in that he refused to believe that a girl with porcelain skin, slanting hazel eyes and red silk for hair could possibly have brains. It wasn't funny or flattering to Lynn. John never really talked to her. Even his plans for a great housing development, the plans he had worked on for three years, were guarded closely by him. Even on this night, such an important night for him, he pretended to joke about it, to be casual.

"You look wonderful, Lynn," he said, helping her into a cab. "If anyone can impress Mr. Thomas Neal, you can!"

"Isn't that Mr. Neal of the City Housing Committee?" she asked.

"My, you do pick up an occasional fact, don't you?" he smiled. "Well, don't try to talk business with Mr. Neal, honey. Just entertain his wife, while I try to convince Mr. Neal of a few things!"

Mr. and Mrs. Neal arrived at the restaurant a few minutes late, so that Lynn had enough time to work out the situa-

tion in her mind. No wonder John looked taut! Here was his chance to get his ideas across, to put his drawn plans into stone and concrete! He must convince Mr. Neal!

But Lynn could see, although the dinner was going pleasantly enough, that John was having a hard time explaining his ideas to Mr. Neal. He was too tense, too anxious, poor darling! Mr. Neal was beginning to look a bit bored. His attention wandered away from John and came back only for brief seconds. And John, becoming more and more desperate, was pushing too hard.

Then the waiter interrupted. "Mr. John Howard? Phone call for you! You may take it out in the lounge, sir."

His face darkened impatiently. Every minute away from Mr. Neal was a loss. "Excuse me," he said, "I'll be right back."

John was gone three minutes. Lynn timed his absence as she turned her beautiful profile towards Mr. Neal and said, "I knew a man of your caliber would recognize the merit of John's plans! What thrills me most about them is . . ."

When John returned, Mr. Neal had difficulty in taking his eyes off Lynn and focussing them on John again. "Well, well, well," he boomed heartily, "you certainly picked a convincing saleswoman in Miss Lynn Martin, my boy! She's told me more about your plans than you have! How about coming to my office tomorrow and telling me more about your space and light ideas?"

John couldn't wait to get Lynn alone. In the cab, driving home, he said huskily, "What an idiot I've been, Lynn. You . . . you're so wonderful and I've been so stupid! So arrogant and sure of myself! I could kick myself for my blindness!"

"What a lot of wasted energy!" Lynn smiled. "You could kiss me, instead!"

The taxi meter clicked on . . . three dollars' worth!

# The Greatest Adventure

**WHAT IS ADVENTURE?** For the wild-game hunter, it's the deadly duel with the fierce denizens of the jungle -- a mortal combat so thrilling as to turn the very blood to ice water! But **Janice Erskine** learned that there's an even more **DANGEROUS** game -- that sometimes the **HUNTER** can be trapped, her heart imprisoned in a cage -- in the **GREATEST ADVENTURE -- ROMANCE!**



PLEASE, DARLING--  
COME WITH ME!

I -- I CAN'T! THE BARS  
I'VE ERECTED -- THEY'RE  
IN THE WAY!

AMERICAN  
Final Edition  
DAILY 5 CENTS  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 1938  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1938

## Pearl Erskine

world-famous big-game  
hunter, returns to America  
today on the luxury liner  
ATLANTIQUE, after a  
breath-taking and triumph-  
ant safari. The fearless  
heroine, idol of millions,  
captured the largest  
elephant known to man  
and...

HOW ABOUT A SHOT  
OF YOU AIMING  
YOUR RIFLE,  
MISS ERSKINE?

HOLD  
THAT POSE,  
MISS  
ERSKINE!

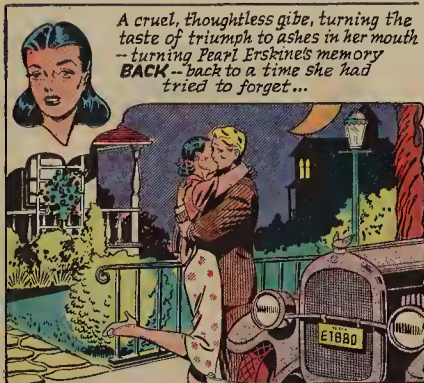


As usual, Pearl Erskine soaked up  
the adulation, the glory, the attention!  
These things were **NECESSARY** to  
her -- like sleep and food to the  
average person! But this time she  
heard a **WHISPER** --

YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE THE OLD GAL  
CREDIT -- SHE'S GOT PLENTY OF GUTS!  
BUT, BROTHER, CAN YOU IMAGINE  
BEING **LOVED** BY A WOMAN  
LIKE THAT?







A cruel, thoughtless gibe, turning the taste of triumph to ashes in her mouth -- turning Pearl Erskine's memory **BACK**-- back to a time she had tried to forget...



PEARL, DARLING-- YOU'RE SO SOFT-- SO UTTERLY **LOVELY!** I--I WANT-- I MEAN-- **PEARL, WILL YOU MARRY ME?**

OH, DOUG, OF COURSE I'LL MARRY YOU! I LOVE YOU WITH ALL MY HEART!

And as the glorious day toward which every girl's life is pointed-- **HER WEDDING DAY**-- grew nearer, Pearl was in an ecstasy of joy--



DARLING, YOU'LL MAKE A BEAUTIFUL BRIDE!

AND A WONDERFUL WIFE -- YOU'LL SEE! OH, MOM, I LOVE DOUG SO MUCH!

But as the happy day approached, Pearl gradually became aware of a shadow-- a shadow that was falling between them!

WHAT IS IT, PEARL? YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO ASK ME SOMETHING!

DOUG, IT'S -- IT'S JUST THAT YOU'VE SEEMED SORT OF-- WELL, **DISTANT.. IMPATIENT**--THESE LAST FEW DAYS IS ANYTHING **WRONG?**

WELL, NOW THAT YOU ASK, I-- I'VE BEEN THINKING IT OVER-- AND I WONDER IF YOU'D REALLY BE **HAPPY** WITH ME!



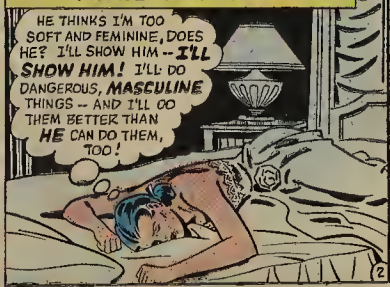
**DOUG! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?**



YOU KNOW I CAN ONLY BE HAPPY WITH **YOU! I LOVE YOU!** DOUG, DON'T YOU LOVE ME?

I-- I STILL LIKE YOU AND ALL THAT -- BUT YOU'RE-- WELL, YOU'RE SO GOSH-DARNED **FEMININE!** SUCH A **CLINGING VINE!** I--WELL, I WONDER HOW YOU'LL EVER BE ABLE TO STAND UP UNDER THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF MARRIAGE! I-- **I'M ASKING YOU TO RELEASE ME FROM OUR ENGAGEMENT, PEARL!**

That was the end of Pearl Erskine's world! Heartbroken, the golden dreams of her heart quickly turned to bitter ashes and dust! But finally, out of her grief, came a **FIERCE RESOLVE!**



HE THINKS I'M TOO SOFT AND FEMININE, DOES HE? I'LL SHOW HIM -- **I'LL SHOW HIM!** I'LL DO DANGEROUS, **MASCULINE** THINGS -- AND I'LL DO THEM BETTER THAN HE CAN DO THEM, **TOO!**

The whole world knows how well Pearl Erskine carried out her resolve! She decided to be a wild-game hunter-- because it was the furthest possible thing from femininity! She summoned up hidden resources of courage-- and for a time she was laughed at, derided! But--impelled by an indomitable purpose that was stronger than she was, she succeeded! Her name became a household word--and everywhere it was synonymous with **COURAGE!**

Yes, these were the bitter recollections which flashed through her mind--until a sudden question awakened her-- to the present!

IS IT TRUE THAT YOUR **NIECE** IS TRAINING TO FOLLOW IN YOUR FOOTSTEPS?

WHAT? --OH, I BEG YOUR PARDON! YES, MY NIECE HAS BEEN LIVING WITH ME SINCE SHE WAS A SMALL CHILD--HER PARENTS WERE KILLED IN AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT! HERE, I'LL SHOW YOU A PICTURE OF JANICE!



**DON'T LET HER PRETTY FACE FOOL YOU!** SHE HAS NO INTEREST IN THE THINGS **MOST GIRLS** WASTE THEIR TIME ON -- **BOYS** AND THAT SORT OF FOOLISHNESS! SHE HAS **ONLY ONE DESIRE IN LIFE--AND THAT'S TO FOLLOW IN MY PATH!**



Was this **REALLY** the ambition of the lovely girl in the photograph? Let's look in on her at this moment--and get a clue to the **TRUTH!**

**I'M JANICE ERSKINE, READER--AND THERE ARE THINGS ABOUT ME, ABOUT MY LIFE, THAT I THINK YOU OUGHT TO KNOW!**



"I don't even remember my own parents! As far back as I can recall, my whole life was filled with my love for-- and my **FEAR** of-- **MY AUNT PEARL!**"

AUNTIE PEARL-- I DON'T WANT ANY MILK!

**JANICE, DON'T YOU DARE TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT!** IF YOU'RE TO GROW UP TO BE STRONG AND BRAVE LIKE ME, YOU MUST DRINK YOUR MILK AND **DO EVERYTHING AUNT PEARL WANTS YOU TO DO!**



IS **PEARL ERSKINE** REALLY YOUR **AUNT?** THE LADY WHO CATCHES ALL THOSE ELEPHANTS AND LIONS AND EVERYTHING? **HONEST?**

YUP-- AND **I'M** GONNA BE JUST LIKE HER WHEN I GET BIG-- SHE'S GONNA **TEACH ME!**



"And so I grew up-- my eyes forever fixed on the goal my aunt held always before me! I had no time for boys; for games-- until one day, as I walked home from school--"

**WOW! A HOME RUN!**

**YEAH! BUT HOW WE GONNA GET THE BALL?** THE JANITOR WON'T LET US GO UP THE STAIRS ONTO THE ROOF ANYMORE!





"A sudden crazy impulse swept over me --  
I'D show them what a **GIRL** could do-- with  
the training I'd received!"

I'LL GET THE BALL  
FOR YOU!

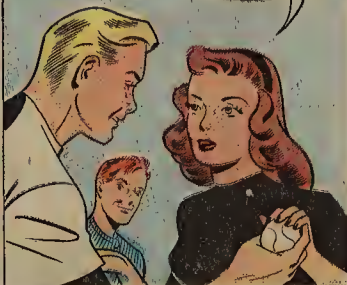


IF ONLY AUNT PEARL  
COULD SEE ME NOW!  
I-- I'M JUST LIKE  
SHE IS!



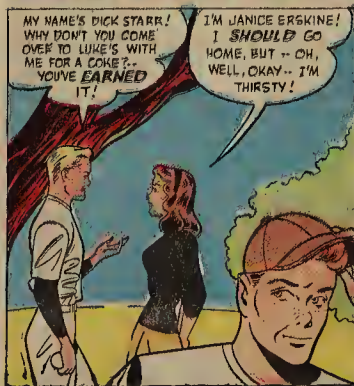
GEE! YOU'RE NOT LIKE  
OTHER GIRLS! -- YOU'RE  
DIFFERENT!

YOU'RE DARN TOOTIN'!  
ANYTHING YOU CAN DO --  
I CAN DO  
BETTER!



MY NAME'S DICK STARR!  
WHY DON'T YOU COME  
OVER TO LUKE'S WITH  
ME FOR A COKE?--  
YOU'VE **EARNED**  
IT!

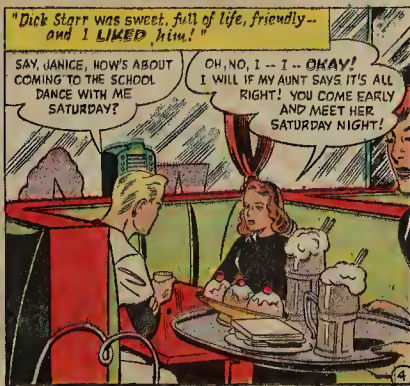
I'M JANICE ERSKINE!  
I **SHOULD** GO  
HOME, BUT -- OH,  
WELL, OKAY-- I'M  
THIRSTY!



"Dick Starr was sweet, full of life, friendly...  
and I **LIKED** him!"

SAY, JANICE, HOW'S ABOUT  
COMING TO THE SCHOOL  
DANCE WITH ME  
SATURDAY?

OH, NO, I -- I -- **OKAY!**  
I WILL IF MY AUNT SAYS IT'S ALL  
RIGHT! YOU COME EARLY  
AND MEET HER  
SATURDAY NIGHT!



"Come Saturday night -- and Dick -- and my heart was fluttering! But Aunt Pearl acted very strangely --"

VERY WELL, CHILDREN!

**YOU MAY GO!** BUT UNDERSTAND, YOUNG MAN, YOU AND JANICE ARE NOT TO BE ALONE, AND YOU ARE TO BRING HER HOME BY 11:30 -- NO LATER! IS THAT CLEAR?

THAT EARLY?  
BUT -- OH,  
WELL, **OKAY!**

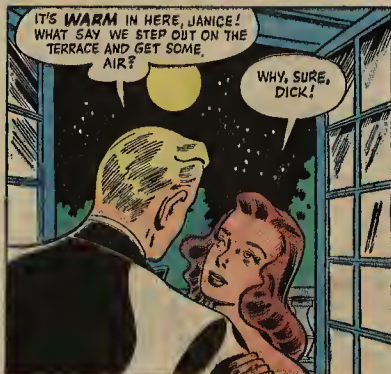


"It was my first real date -- my first dance -- **AND HOW I LOVED EVERY MINUTE OF IT!**"



IT'S **WARM** IN HERE, JANICE! WHAT SAY WE STEP OUT ON THE TERRACE AND GET SOME AIR?

WHY, SURE, DICK!



"A million stars swarmed in the sky as Dick came nearer -- **NEARER!** His arms were around me -- I'd never felt like **THIS** before --"



"My first kiss -- my first romance -- how sweet and tender it was! True to his word, Dick brought me to my door at 11:25 --"

GOOD NIGHT, YOUNG MAN! COME ALONG, JANICE! TIME FOR YOU TO GO TO BED!

BUT -- BUT --



"Leave it to Aunt Pearl to see through me -- to sense the lovelight shining in my eyes --"

JANICE, YOU'RE AT THE AGE NOW WHERE YOU HAVE TO MAKE A **DECISION!** YOU MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN LOVE, MARRIAGE, AND BABIES AND ALL THE SLAVERY AND DRUDGERY WHICH GO WITH THEM -- OR -- A **CAREER OF FAME, ADVENTURE AND INDEPENDENCE LIKE MINE!** YOU SIMPLY CANNOT HAVE BOTH!







OH, AUNTIE -- **WHAT CAN I SAY?** I WANT TO BE LIKE YOU -- BUT I -- I LIKE HIM --

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT! I WANT YOU TO ASK THAT BOY TO COME HERE WEDNESDAY NIGHT -- WE'LL HAVE A LITTLE CHAT AND **CLEAR EVERYTHING UP!**

"Wednesday night -- and a sense of impending doom hung over me as I found out what Aunt Pearl meant by 'clearing things up!'"

NOW LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS! YOU SEE, YOUNG MAN, JANICE DOESN'T WANT TO HURT YOU! BUT YOU MUST **KNOW** THAT SHE ISN'T LIKE **OTHER** GIRLS -- SHE HAS HER EYES ON **MUCH MORE IMPORTANT GOALS!**

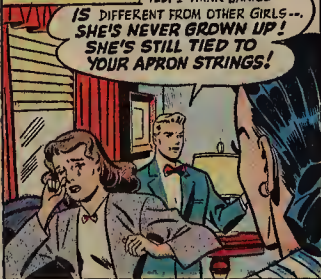
SHE SIMPLY HAS NO **TIME** FOR BOYS, **COOKIES, DATES, DANCES!** **DO YOU UNDERSTAND?**

YES, I THINK I **DO** UNDERSTAND -- MAYBE TOO WELL -- BECAUSE I WANT TO HEAR **JANICE SAY THAT!** -- **IS WHAT SHE SAYS TRUE, JANICE?**

"I opened my mouth to cry out in denial -- and felt my aunt's eyes fixed on me like twin orbs of fire! I couldn't speak! Instead, I began to sob brokenly, chokingly --"

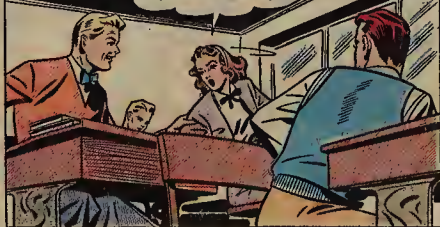
YES, I THINK JANICE

**IS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER GIRLS -- SHE'S NEVER GROWN UP! SHE'S STILL TIED TO YOUR APRON STRINGS!**



"For days I was in a torment! I **HATED** Dick for what he had said -- even more because I recognized its truth! And so I made a vow to myself! **FROM NOW ON, I MUST NOT ALLOW ROMANCE TO DISTRACT ME FROM MY STEADFAST GOAL!**"

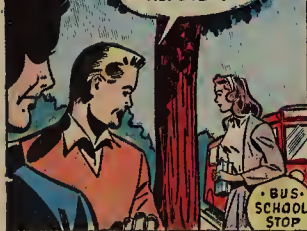
I TOLD YOU BEFORE -- **NO!** I DON'T WANT TO GO OUT WITH YOU -- OR ANYBODY ELSE!



THAT ERSKINE GIRL -- I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HER! SHE JUST DOESN'T SEEM TO CARE ABOUT FELLAS!

AND SHE'S **PRETTY, TOO!**

I'VE ASKED HER TO GO OUT WITH ME FOUR DIFFERENT TIMES -- **AND SHE REFUSED!**



"Though I faithfully obeyed my vow, sometimes I was gripped by strange feelings!

**Feelings of LONELINESS** that I could hardly understand -- feelings which seemed to burst upon me at the most unexpected moments!"

NOW, THIS IS A THOMPSON SUB-MACHINE GUN! YOU PLACE THE CLIP HERE AND -- WHAT IS IT, JANICE? YOU'RE **CRYING!**

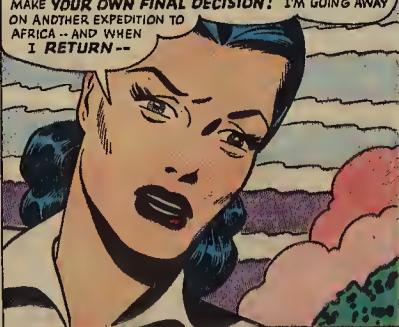


I UNDERSTAND WHAT'S TROUBLING YOU! YOU'RE STILL DREAMING OF **ROMANCE** -- OF THOSE SILLY GIRLISH THINGS, AREN'T YOU? AM I RIGHT? **ANSWER** ME, YOUNG LADY!

I-- I SUPPOSE SO! I CAN'T HELP IT! I'M SORRY, AUNT PEARL!



I'VE CODDLED YOU **LONG ENOUGH!** YOU'RE NOT A CHILD ANY LONGER -- WHEN YOU MAKE UP YOUR MIND, YOU'RE EXPECTED TO **STICK** TO IT! NOW I'M GOING TO LET YOU MAKE **YOUR OWN FINAL DECISION!** I'M GOING AWAY ON ANOTHER EXPEDITION TO AFRICA -- AND WHEN I RETURN --

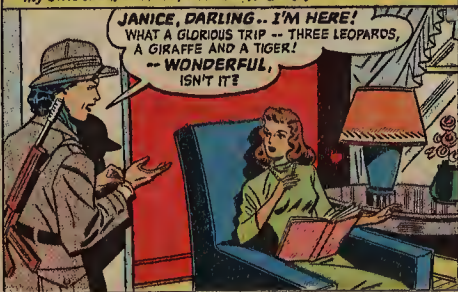


...YOU'LL HAVE TO HAVE YOUR MIND MADE UP -- **FOR GOOD!** IT WILL EITHER BE THE STUPID LIFE OF THE AVERAGE GIRL, WITH A HUSBAND AND SLAVERY IN A KITCHEN -- OR IT WILL BE A CAREER AS A WILD-GAME HUNTER LIKE ME!! BUT IF IT'S THE **FORMER** -- WELL, YOU WILL LEAVE MY HOME AND I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!



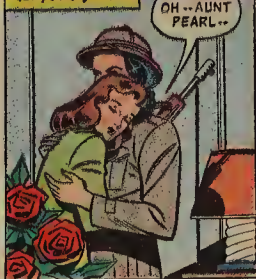
"Well, reader -- that was my life up to this moment! And now I was awaiting my aunt's return, knowing that the fateful moment of decision was at hand -- trying to decide how to tell her that I had decided to strike out for my own independence, **MY OWN LIFE!**"

JANICE, DARLING.. I'M HERE! WHAT A GLORIOUS TRIP -- THREE LEOPARDS, A GIRAFFE AND A TIGER! -- **WONDERFUL,** ISN'T IT?



"At the sight of my aunt, all my fine resolves, all my determination to achieve independence -- everything seemed to collapse! The hold she had over me was too powerful!"

OH -- AUNT PEARL --



"I wanted to tell her that I didn't **WANT** a career -- that I wanted a normal life -- with love, children, a home -- but I **COULDN'T!** In her presence, I was still a **LITTLE GIRL!**"

WELL, NOW YOU'VE HAD TIME TO MAKE UP YOUR MIND! -- **WHAT IS YOUR DECISION?**

I -- I WANT TO BE -- **LIKE YOU!**



**GODD!** AND NOW THAT YOU'VE MADE UP YOUR MIND, **THERE'LL BE NO MORE TURNING BACK!** YOU'RE TO GIVE UP ANY FOOLISH IDEAS OF LOVE AND MARRIAGE -- AND **PREPARE FOR THE GREAT CAREER I'VE MAPPED OUT FOR YOU!**





"Somehow, I had an inexplicable, abandoned feeling-- as if I had been caught up in forces too strong for me!"

NOW, IT'S TIME WE STARTED **COACHING** YOU FOR YOUR CAREER! I WANT YOU TO START STUDYING THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA-- IT'S THERE THAT YOUR FUTURE ADVENTURES WILL CARRY YOU! THERE'S NO BETTER WAY FOR YOU TO DO THAT THAN TO ENROLL IN THE LECTURE COURSE ON AFRICA THAT'S BEING GIVEN BY DR. HARVEY PRESSER, THE ARCHAEOLOGIST!

... AND MY COLLEAGUES AND I HAVE FOUND THE REMAINS OF ANCIENT, PREHISTORIC CULTURES IN AFRICA WHICH WE ESTIMATE TO BE 18,000 YEARS OLD! BUT WE ARE NOW ARRANGING A NEW EXPEDITION TO SEARCH FOR AN EVEN **OLDER** CIVILIZATION...

"Something about this man affected me deeply! It was not what he was saying, but his tone of voice, his clean-cut looks, his gentle manner-- They combined to draw me like a magnet!"

"After the lecture, I went up to ask him a question! I knew -- and I think **HE KNEW**-- that it was a mere pretext! I **HAD TO TALK TO HIM!**"

THERE'S HARDLY TIME TO ANSWER YOU **HERE** -- THEY LOCK THE BUILDING UP DIRECTLY WHEN THIS COURSE IS OVER! BUT I'M GOING TO DINNER NOW -- AND I'D BE HONORED IF YOU JOINED ME!

WHY -- THANKS, DR. PRESSER!

"What was it about him? -- His fine features, his flashing eyes -- his attractive personality? Anyway, I phoned my aunt and told her I was going to study in the library, and would be home late!"

SAY -- THE NIGHT IS STILL YOUNG -- AND THERE'S A **DANCE** OVER AT THE CAMPUS CLUB! WHAT SAY WE TAKE IT IN? BY THE WAY -- **WHAT'S YOUR NAME?**

**JANICE ERSKINE!** AND I **NEVER** GO TO DANCES-- BUT I'M GOING TO **THIS ONE!**

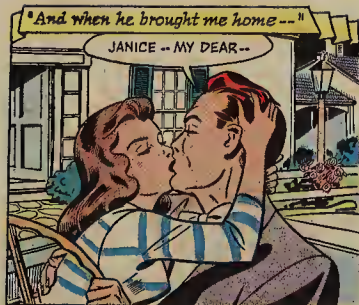
"Deep in the recesses of my mind, I felt guilty for having lied to Aunt Pearl--for breaking my vow! And yet my heart was too occupied with something else -- something wonderful-- **DR. HARVEY PRESSER!**"

OH, YOU DANCE **BEAUTIFULLY,** DR. PRESSER!

**HARVEY** TO YOU, JANICE! WE'RE GOING TO SEE A LOT OF EACH OTHER, YOU KNOW! IT'S NOT AS IF YOU'RE AN UNDERGRADUATE!

"The rest of that evening still lives as a dreamy, star-lit vision in my memory-- a vision of a tender love flaming into being!"

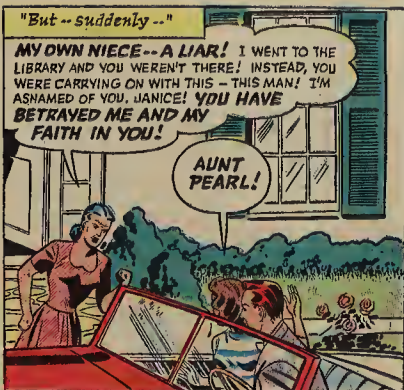




"And when he brought me home --"

JANICE -- MY DEAR --

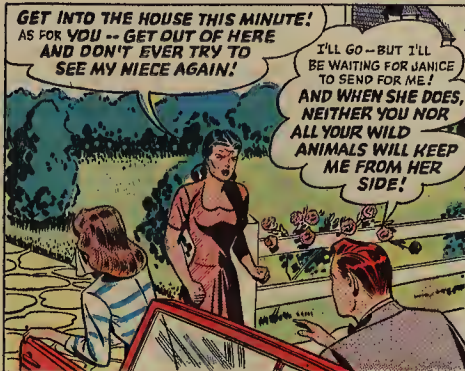
"How can I describe that feeling of rapture, of utter intoxication as his lips met mine? All thoughts of the future, of the **CAREER** that had been planned for me, vanished before a tempestuous emotion which shook me to my heart!"



"But -- suddenly --"

**MY OWN NIECE -- A LIAR!** I WENT TO THE LIBRARY AND YOU WEREN'T THERE! INSTEAD, YOU WERE CARRYING ON WITH THIS -- THIS MAN! I'M ASHAMED OF YOU, JANICE! **YOU HAVE BETRAYED ME AND MY FAITH IN YOU!**

**AUNT PEARL!**



**GET INTO THE HOUSE THIS MINUTE!**  
AS FOR YOU -- GET OUT OF HERE  
AND DON'T EVER TRY TO  
SEE MY NIECE AGAIN!

I'LL GO -- BUT I'LL  
BE WAITING FOR JANICE  
TO SEND FOR ME!  
**AND WHEN SHE DOES,  
NEITHER YOU NOR  
ALL YOUR WILD  
ANIMALS WILL KEEP  
ME FROM HER  
SIDE!**



"Inside, I faced a **NEW Aunt Pearl** -- with a look of wild, cruel determination on her face which terrified me!"

YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH THIS MAN,  
AREN'T YOU? **TELL ME  
THE TRUTH!**

OH, NO,  
AUNTIE, IT'S NOT --  
**ALL RIGHT, I'LL  
TELL YOU THE TRUTH!**  
I'M NOT ASHAMED OF IT --  
**I'VE FALLEN IN  
LOVE  
WITH HARVEY!**



**YOU FOOL -- YOU INSIPID LITTLE FOOL!**  
AFTER ALL I'VE TAUGHT YOU! -- **LOVE!** I WANTED  
YOU TO BE SOMETHING IN LIFE -- AND IF YOU DON'T  
KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU -- I DO! **I'M  
GOING TO SAVE YOU FROM  
YOURSELF!**



I'M GOING TO LEAVE AT ONCE ON A NEW AFRICAN  
EXPEDITION -- **AND YOU'RE COMING WITH  
ME!** DO YOU UNDERSTAND? AND NOW YOU'RE  
GOING TO SIT DOWN AND WRITE A NOTE TO  
DR. PRESSER TELLING HIM YOU'RE LEAVING --  
AND THAT WHAT HAPPENED  
WAS ALL A **MISTAKE!**

"Terror-stricken, dumbly, like a machine  
responding to a signal, I did what I was  
told -- though deep within me, something  
rebelled, cried out in aching protest --"



MY ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION WILL BE SOMEWHERE IN THE SAME AREA THEY'RE PENETRATING -- AND I'LL MAKE IT MY BUSINESS TO GET TO JANICE IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO! I DON'T BELIEVE SHE REALLY MEANS ONE WORD OF THIS NOTE SHE SENT ME -- IT'S JUST THAT AUNT OF HERS DOMINATING HER -- SO--

"Pearl Erskine, fearless wild-game hunter, joined for the first time by her niece, Janice, leaves today for the wilds of darkest Africa on the most dangerous expedition she has yet undertaken. The Erskines will attempt to do what has thus far been found impossible -- to take motion pictures of the "Mad Cat," the mammoth tiger which has destroyed every hunter who has sought to capture or photograph him!"



"And in the sweltering, blasting heat of the African jungle..."

THIS FAR WE TAKE YOU -- BUT NO MORE! HERE MAD CAT RULE!

BUT -- YOU CAN'T! OH, WELL, I GUESS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO GO ON WITHOUT THEM, JANICE!



HERE'S THE STRATEGY I'VE PLANNED, JANICE! WE MUST ATTRACT THE MAD CAT TO A DEFINITE PART OF THE JUNGLE WHERE WE'LL HAVE OUR CAMERAS SET UP ON A PLATFORM IN A TREE! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO TRY TO CAPTURE OR KILL HIM -- BUT WE'LL TRY TO GET SOME SHOTS OF HIM!



"I opened my mouth to reply.. then froze in horror as through the jungle came a fierce roar! Gripped by panic, I recoiled, trembling! Was THIS what I had chosen -- over the comfort of Harveys arms?"

**R-R-ROAR!**



OH!!! A LION!

WATCH OUT, JANICE! I'LL GET HIM!

**BANG!**



SEE? IT WAS EASY! AND THE BLOOD MAY ATTRACT THE MAD CAT! COME ON -- LET'S GET OUR PLATFORM BUILT!



"Working with desperate speed, we finished our tree platform -- and then the wearisome wait began! I felt my fear relaxing -- surely the great beast we sought must be many miles away! Then, suddenly, the padding of giant feet -- AND AN AWFUL SIGHT!"

OH, GOOD HEAVENS, LOOK -- LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THAT THING!

IT'S THE MAD CAT, JANICE! AND HE'S SPOTTED US!



**JANICE!** STOP **CRYING** AND LISTEN TO ME! KEEP THE GUN TRAINED ON HIM-- BUT DON'T FIRE UNLESS YOU HAVE TO! HE CAN'T POSSIBLY REACH US!--

BUT--BUT HE'S LUNGING AT THE TREE! HE'S--



Meanwhile--nearby in the jungle...

IT CAN'T BE MUCH FARTHER -- THAT NATIVE BACK THERE SAID HE LEFT THEM NEAR HERE THIS MORNING -- **WAIT!** WHAT WAS THAT? GREAT HEAVENS! IT SOUNDED LIKE A **HUMAN SCREAM!** -- COME ON, MURPHY! LET'S GO!



**HOLY SMOKE!** LOOK AT THAT BEAST! AND-- AND HE'S ATTACHING THE WOMAN--



IF--IF ONLY I CAN GET A CLEAR SHOT IN!

WHAT THE --! I'M PUMPING SHELLS INTO HIM, BUT IT'S NO USE! HE'S STILL COMING-- AH! THERE HE GOES!



SHE--SHE'S PRETTY BADLY HURT! MURPH-- GET ME SOME PEPHIGILLIN OUT OF MY KIT! **QUICK!**

**NO!**--IT'S TOO LATE--I'M DYING! BUT--BUT BEFORE I GO-- I WANT TO ASK YOUR FORGIVENESS-- BOTH--OF YOU! YOU--YOU RISKED YOUR LIFE, HARVEY, FOR THE GIRL YOU LOVED -- AND FOR ME! THAT--MADE ME REALIZE--



DON'T HATE ME, JANICE! I--CAN TELL YOU NOW WHY I TRIED TO DESTROY YOUR LOVE! I WAS-- **JEALOUS.** COULDN'T BEAR TO SEE YOU-- GET THE THINGS -- I WAS DENIED! YOU SEE -- ONCE I LOVED A MAN, TOO! I LOST HIM -- COULDN'T BEAR -- TO SEE YOU HAVE THE HAPPINESS -- I MISSED! FORGIVE ME, CHILDREN -- **AND LOVE EACH OTHER-- ALWAYS--**



"I looked up--and there was Harvey--MY Harvey! And the light in his eyes told me that there was only one career I sought--his arms-- marriage! I'd learned my lesson in **ROMANCE--THE GREATEST ADVENTURE OF ALL!**"

The End



# Love IS NOT Blind

THE darkness was to be lifted that day.

For two months, Jack Hewitt had seen nothing, pressing his hands to the bandages over his eyes and wondering what it would be like to see again. And for two months, Betty Lawrence had loved him, deeply, tenderly, as she rustled around his hospital room in her crisp uniform, making everything as beautiful as if he *could* see!

She had fallen in love with his kind voice, the gentle things he said, the strength of his patience, the capable look of his hands. What would he think when he saw her, his day nurse? How would he like her plain face, her ordinary brown hair and eyes, the every-day look of her?

Betty's heart sank as she thought of Marjorie Bannion. Marjorie was the other nurse, who had declared her intent the instant she saw Jack Hewitt. He was rich and important and Marjorie meant to have him. And have him she would, she implied, tossing her golden page-boy and looking at her perfect reflection in the mirror.

The doctor was coming along the corridor. He was going to unwind the bandages . . . in just two minutes . . . one minute . . . Jack Hewitt would have his sight back . . . be free to walk out of the hospital . . . out of her life!

Betty clenched her small fists until her nails dug into the palms of her hand. She was afraid, really afraid. She loved him so! She conjured up a vision of what would happen. He would look at her with disappointment. Then, expressing his polite thanks, he would turn to Marjorie Bannion, and his newly-seeing eyes would make love to her.

"I can't stay! I won't stay!" Betty

did something she had never before done. She turned and fled. Marjorie would be enough. The doctor didn't really need her help. Down the steps she ran, to the nurse's rest room. "I can pretend I had a headache," she said, and truly her head felt strangely light and giddy. . .

The doctor was unwinding the last few inches of bandage. "What do you say, Mr. Hewitt?" he asked.

"I . . . this is wonderful! *I can see!* I can really see, Doctor!"

An inviting voice from the back of the room said, "Can you see me, Mr. Hewitt? I'm your nurse!"

Jack Hewitt turned and stared at a radiantly beautiful blonde, whose smile was coquettish. "Yes, I can see you," he said. "But you're not Betty! You *can't* be! Where is she? I want to see her!"

Betty couldn't refuse. He had asked to see her. She did not even glance in the mirror to set her cap straight or to see whether she was wearing enough lipstick. With her back straight and tall as she could make it, she walked into the hospital room. "I'm Betty Lawrence," she said.

"Of course you are!" Jack Hewitt's face grew as tender and gentle as his voice. "You're as beautiful as the things you say and think and do. I've waited a long time to see you, Betty. And it's been *worth it!*"

Then Betty Lawrence did a completely unprofessional thing. She broke down and cried as though her heart would break. But it wasn't breaking. It was swelling with happiness because he had made *her* see what inner beauty was.

And besides, she was crying on Jack's shoulder!

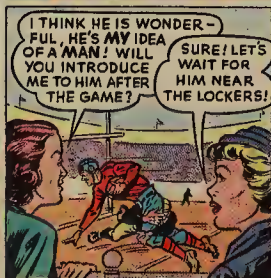
# Tootsie

SCORES  
A ROMANTIC  
TOUCHDOWN

By BILL SCHNEIDER

DID YOU SEE THAT  
PASS! ISN'T HE  
TERRIFIC!

THAT'S BILL TAYLOR!  
HE SITS NEXT TO ME  
IN CHEMISTRY CLASS!



I THINK HE IS WONDER-  
FUL, HE'S MY IDEA  
OF A MAN! WILL  
YOU INTRODUCE  
ME TO HIM AFTER  
THE GAME?

SURE! LET'S  
WAIT FOR  
HIM NEAR  
THE LOCKERS!



HERE HE  
COMES NOW -  
HELLO BILL!

YIPPEE!  
WE WON



BILL, I WANT YOU TO  
MEET A FRIEND  
OF MINE - ANN!

M-M-M  
SHE'S  
SUPER!

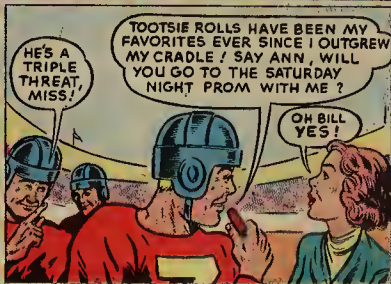
YOU'RE A  
WHOLE TEAM  
BY YOURSELF!



YOU MUST BE PRETTY TIRED  
AFTER THAT GAME! CARE FOR A  
TOOTSIE ROLL? THEY'RE WONDER-  
FUL FOR QUICK ENERGY!

SURE  
THING!

WE CAN  
EAT THEM  
BY THE  
DOZEN!



HE'S A  
TRIPLE  
THREAT,  
MISS!

TOOTSIE ROLLS HAVE BEEN MY  
FAVORITES EVER SINCE I OUTGREW  
MY CRADLE! SAY ANN, WILL  
YOU GO TO THE SATURDAY  
NIGHT PROM WITH ME?

OH BILL  
YES!



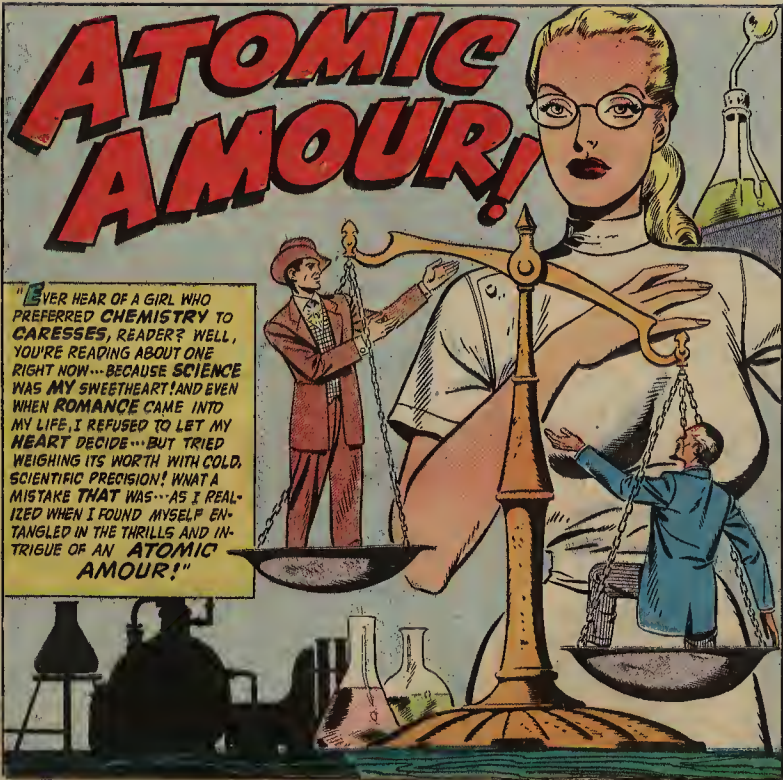
WHEN I WANT A SWEET  
TREAT I ALWAYS REACH  
FOR A TOOTSIE ROLL!  
MY DATES LOVE  
THEM, TOO!

COCONUT  
CENTER



# ATOMIC AMOUR!

"EVER HEAR OF A GIRL WHO PREFERRED **CHEMISTRY** TO CARESSES, READER? WELL, YOU'RE READING ABOUT ONE RIGHT NOW... BECAUSE **SCIENCE** WAS MY SWEETHEART! AND EVEN WHEN **ROMANCE** CAME INTO MY LIFE, I REFUSED TO LET MY HEART DECIDE... BUT TRIED WEIGHING ITS WORTH WITH COLD, SCIENTIFIC PRECISION! WHAT A MISTAKE THAT WAS... AS I REALIZED WHEN I FOUND MYSELF ENTANGLED IN THE THRILLS AND INTRIGUE OF AN **ATOMIC AMOUR!**"



"WHAT DOES HIGH-SCHOOL MEAN TO YOU, READER... JUKE JOINTS, SODA DATES, DANCES?"

"COKE'S ARE ON ME, FOLKS! GOTTA CELEBRATE... GLORIA JUST SAID SHE'D GO TO THE SENIOR PROM WITH ME!"

"MY BOYFRIEND'S COMING DOWN FROM COLLEGE TO TAKE ME!"

"I GUESS OUR WHOLE CROWD'S DATED UP FOR THE PROM NOW... ALL EXCEPT **LORRAINE!** HEY, LORRAINE, WHO ARE YOU GOING WITH? ... **LORRAINE!**"



"OR DOES IT MEAN BOOKS, CRAMMING, HOMEWORK... AS IT DID TO ME?"

**LORRAINE!** CAN'T YOU GET YOUR NOSE OUT OF THAT BOOK FOR HALF A SECOND?"

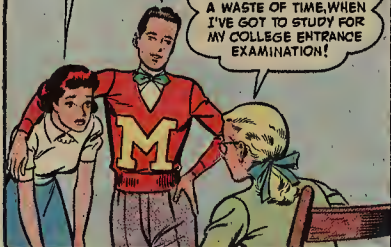
"WHAT? WAS SOMEONE TALKING TO ME? I'M SORRY I DIDN'T HEAR... I WAS MEMORIZING THIS TABLE OF MOLECULAR WEIGHTS!"



WHAT A TIME TO BE **STUDYING!** I BET SHE THINKS A **SLIDE RULE** WOULD MAKE A GOOD PARTNER!

GOSH, LORRAINE, AREN'T YOU **HUMAN?** YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE IN THE WHOLE SCHOOL WHO ISN'T EXCITED ABOUT THE PROM! DON'T YOU **WANT** TO GO?

WELL, NO ONE'S ASKED ME, BUT I WOULDN'T CARE TO GO ANYWAY! IT'S JUST A WASTE OF TIME, WHEN I'VE GOT TO STUDY FOR MY COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION!



OH, DON'T LET **LORRAINE** STOP YOU, DARLING! WE'RE JUST AS GOOD AS ALONE---SHE'S MILES AWAY, WRAPPED UP IN HER BOOKS!

WHAT CAN SHE POSSIBLY **SEE** IN KISSING? A KISS IS JUST A SENSELESS PHYSICAL CONTACT BETWEEN TWO PAIRS OF LIPS! I'M **GLAD** I'VE NEVER BEEN KISSED--- THERE'S NO ROOM IN MY LIFE FOR THAT TYPE OF NONSENSE, ANYWAY!



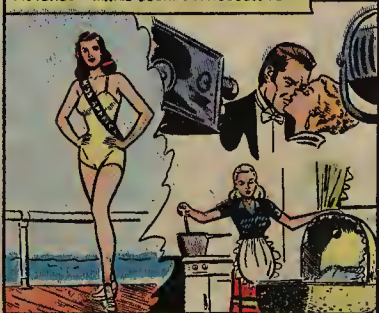
"**AND AT COLLEGE...**"

OH, COME ON, TOMMY--- WHY ARE YOU ACTING SO **FORMAL?**

WELL, WE--- WE'RE NOT ALONE! YOUR ROOMMATE--- DOESN'T SHE **EVER** GO OUT FOR SOME AIR?



"**AFTER GRADUATION FROM COLLEGE, MY FRIENDS ALL CHOSE DIFFERENT CAREERS! DOTTY BECAME MISS AMERICA AND STARTED MODELING--- FLO WENT INTO PICTURES--- MARIE BECAME A HOUSEWIFE---**"



"... AND AS FOR ME--- WELL, I STILL KEPT ON **STUDYING!**"

WHEN--- 3 A.M.--- AND I'VE STILL GOT A COUPLE OF HOURS TO GO BEFORE I'M THROUGH CRAMMING FOR THAT CIVIL SERVICE EXAM TOMORROW MORNING! BUT BURNING ALL THIS MIDNIGHT OIL WILL CERTAINLY PAY OFF IF I CAN GET THAT JOB AS TECHNICAL ASSISTANT IN THE **NUCLEAR PHYSICS** PROGRAM!



"**IT DID** PAY OFF! I WAS FIRST ON THE NATIONAL LIST--- AND WAS ASSIGNED TO THE LOS ALAMOS ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTER, WHERE ALL MY WAKING HOURS WERE HAPPILY SPENT WORKING ON THE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS OF ATOMIC ENERGY!"

SHE'S BEEN WORKING TWELVE HOURS A DAY EVER SINCE SHE CAME HERE! DOESN'T SHE **EVER** RELAX? NOT **HER!** I FELT SORRY FOR HER ONE NIGHT AND ASKED HER TO A DANCE--- THE LOOK SHE GAVE ME ALMOST FROZE ME TO DEATH! SHE'S A TOP-NOTCH PHYSICIST, BUT--- WELL, YOU KNOW--- **NO HEART!**



"**AND THEN, AFTER MONTHS OF HARD, GRINDING WORK, SUCCESS--- BLINDING, METEORIC SUCCESS!**"

A BRILLIANT DISCOVERY, MISS GRANT--- **BRILLIANT!** ACCEPT MY CONGRATULATIONS--- AND THE THANKS OF THE ENTIRE NATION--- FOR YOUR NEW METHOD OF SECURING ATOMIC ENERGY FROM THE THORIUM ISOTOPE! SINCE THORIUM IS MUCH MORE COMMON THAN URANIUM, YOU HAVE BROUGHT AMERICA TO THE VERY THRESHOLD OF ITS GREATEST DREAM--- THE USE OF ATOMIC ENERGY IN **ALL** OUR INDUSTRIES!

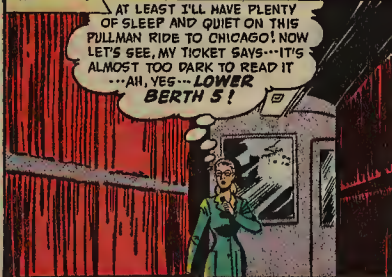


THANK YOU, DR. MAXWELL!



"THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED WERE FILLED WITH THE TURMOIL OF VISITS FROM TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS! EVERY TECHNICAL SOCIETY IN THE COUNTRY WAS CLAMORING FOR ME TO ADDRESS THEM...AND TO ESCAPE THE DISTURBING EXCITEMENT AT LOS ALAMOS, I ACCEPTED ONE OFFER!"

AT LEAST I'LL HAVE PLENTY OF SLEEP AND QUIET ON THIS PULLMAN RIDE TO CHICAGO! NOW LET'S SEE, MY TICKET SAYS...IT'S ALMOST TOO DARK TO READ IT...  
--AH, YES...**LOWER BERTH 5!**



"WEARILY, I MADE MY WAY TO LOWER BERTH 5, THREW OPEN THE CURTAIN...AND REELED BACK IN SHOCKED DISMAY!"

HI, BABE!  
WHAT GIVES?

OHHH!



WHAT--WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY BERTH?

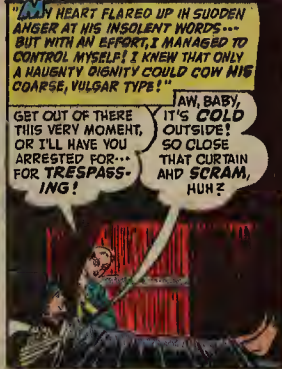
YOUR BERTH? AW, COME ON, COOKIE...THAT'S AN OLD LINE! COULDN'T GET ONE OF YOUR OWN...SO YOU'RE TRYIN' TO GET ME TO MOVE OUT!



"MY HEART FLARED UP IN SUDDEN ANGER AT HIS INSOLENT WORDS... BUT WITH AN EFFORT, I MANAGED TO CONTROL MYSELF! I KNEW THAT ONLY A HAUNTY DIGNITY COULD COW HIS COARSE, VULGAR TYPE!"

GET OUT OF THERE THIS VERY MOMENT, OR I'LL HAVE YOU ARRESTED FOR... FOR TRESPASSING!

AW, BABY, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE! SO CLOSE THAT CURTAIN AND SCRAM, HUH?

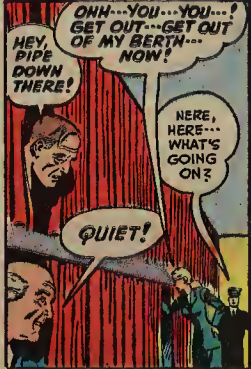


HEY, PIPE DOWN THERE!

OHH...YOU...YOU...! GET OUT...GET OUT OF MY BERTH... NOW!

HERE, HERE... WHAT'S GOING ON?

QUIET!



LADY, YOU'RE IN THE WRONG BERTH...YOUR TICKET IS FOR BERTH 3!

OHHH, NO!

HAW! MAYBE THEM SPECS OF YOURS AREN'T HEAVY ENOUGH, HONEY!... BE SEEN' YA!



"FOR HOURS, I TOSSED SLEEPLESSLY, HEART NOT WITH RAGE AT THE INSUFFERABLE BOOR WHO'D MADE ME THE LAUGHING STOCK OF THE ENTIRE CAR! THEN, WHEN I AWOKE LATE FOR BREAKFAST..."

YOU'RE LUCKY, MISS! THIS IS THE ONLY EMPTY SEAT IN THE WHOLE DINING CAR!

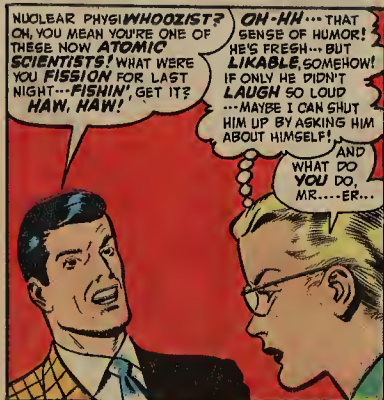
THANK YOU! I--I GUESS I OVERSLEPT...





OH!!  
YOU!

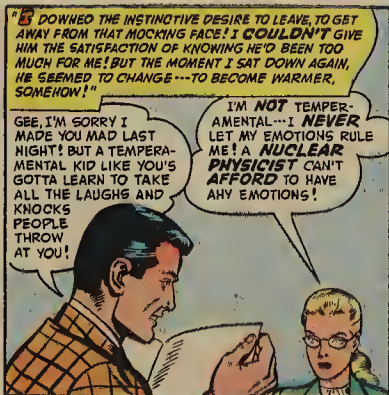
MORNIN', SWEET-  
HEART! SIT DOWN, SIT  
DOWN---I'M NOT PARTICULAR  
WHO I EAT WITH! AN' THAT'S  
THE LAST SEAT IN THE CAR...  
SO YOU'LL TAKE IT OR  
STARVE!



NUCLEAR PHYISNHOOOZIST?  
OH, YOU MEAN YOU'RE ONE OF  
THESE NOW ATOMIC  
SCIENTISTS! WHAT WERE  
YOU FISSION FOR LAST  
NIGHT---FISHIN' GET IT?  
HAW, HAW!

OH-HH... THAT  
SENSE OF HUMOR!  
HE'S FRESH... BUT  
LIKABLE, SOMEHOW!  
IF ONLY HE DIDN'T  
LAUGH SO LOUD  
---MAYBE I CAN SHUT  
HIM UP BY ASKING HIM  
ABOUT HIMSELF!

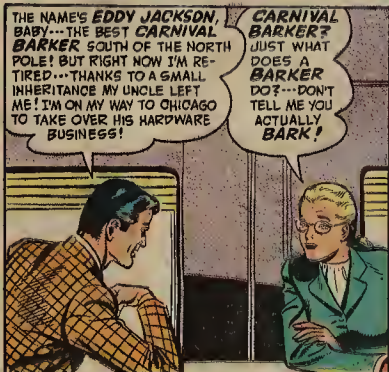
AND  
WHAT DO  
YOU DO,  
MR....ER...



"**B** DOWNED THE INSTINCTIVE DESIRE TO LEAVE, TO GET  
AWAY FROM THAT MOCKING FACE! I **COULDN'T** GIVE  
HIM THE SATISFACTION OF KNOWING HE'D BEEN TOO  
MUCH FOR ME! BUT THE MOMENT I SAT DOWN AGAIN,  
HE SEEMED TO CHANGE---TO BECOME WARMER,  
SOMEHOW!"

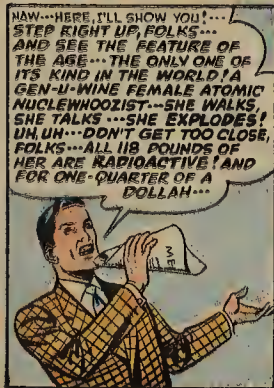
GEE, I'M SORRY I  
MADE YOU MAD LAST  
NIGHT! BUT A TEMPERA-  
MENTAL KID LIKE YOU'S  
GOTTA LEARN TO TAKE  
ALL THE LAUGHS AND  
KNOCKS  
PEOPLE  
THROW  
AT YOU!

I'M **NOT** TEMPER-  
AMENTAL... I **NEVER**  
LET MY EMOTIONS RULE  
ME! A **NUCLEAR**  
PHYSICIST CAN'T  
**AFFORD** TO HAVE  
ANY EMOTIONS!



THE NAME'S **EDDY JACKSON**,  
BABY... THE BEST **CARNIVAL**  
**BARKER** SOUTH OF THE NORTH  
POLE! BUT RIGHT NOW I'M RE-  
TIRED... THANKS TO A SMALL  
INHERITANCE MY UNCLE LEFT  
ME! I'M ON MY WAY TO CHICAGO  
TO TAKE OVER HIS HARDWARE  
BUSINESS!

**CARNIVAL**  
**BARKER**?  
JUST WHAT  
DOES A  
**BARKER**  
DO?... DON'T  
TELL ME YOU  
ACTUALLY  
**BARK**!



HAW... HERE, I'LL SHOW YOU!...  
STEP RIGHT UP, FOLKS...  
AND SEE THE FEATURE OF  
THE AGE... THE ONLY ONE OF  
ITS KIND IN THE WORLD! A  
GEN-U-WINE FEMALE ATOMIC  
NUCLEHNOOOZIST... SHE WALKS,  
SHE TALKS... SHE EXPLODES!  
UH, UH... DON'T GET TOO CLOSE,  
FOLKS... ALL 118 POUNDS OF  
HER ARE RADIOACTIVE! AND  
FOR ONE-QUARTER OF A  
DOLLAR...

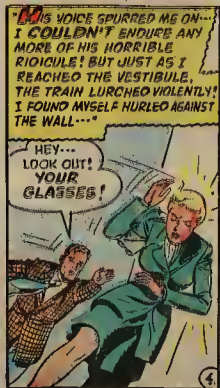


"**E** SAT THERE HORROR-STRICKEN,  
PARALYZED! AND THEN, AS A ROAR OF  
LAUGHTER FILLED THE CAR, I FLED  
...IN ABJECT NUMILIATION!"

OH!!

HEY, BABY  
... WAIT!  
WHAT'S  
WRONG?

HA, HA!  
HA, HAW!



"**H**IS VOICE SPURRED ME ON...  
I **COULDN'T** ENDURE ANY  
MORE OF HIS HORRIBLE  
RIGIDITY! BUT JUST AS I  
REACHED THE VESTIBULE,  
THE TRAIN LURCHED VIOLENTLY!  
I FOUND MYSELF HURLED AGAINST  
THE WALL..."

HEY...  
LOOK OUT!  
YOUR  
GLASSES!



HEY, WHY'VE YOU BEEN HIDIN' THAT PRETTY FACE O' YOURS BEHIND THOSE **CHEATERS?** I DIDN'T KNOW IT BEFORE, BUT YOU'RE ALL THERE---AND **ALL RIGHT!**

I---I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANOTHER **WORD** OUT OF YOU! EVER SINCE WE MET, YOU'VE PURPOSELY TRIED TO HUMILIATE ME IN PUBLIC---AND I HATE YOU, **HATE** YOU!



AN' YOU'RE SO DURNED **CUTE** WHEN YOU'RE MAD, THAT I LOVE YOU, **LOVE** YOU!



"**HE'S POWERFUL** ARMS SWEEP ME TO HIM---I FELT MY LIPS CRUSHED AGAINST HIS! A STRANGE, THROB- BING THRILL GRIPPED MY HEART, FOR THIS WAS MY **FIRST KISS!** ALMOST UNCON- SCIOUSLY, I FOUND MYSELF KISSING BACK---AND THEN I REMEMBERED! THIS WAS **EDDY JACKSON... CARNIVAL BARKER!**"

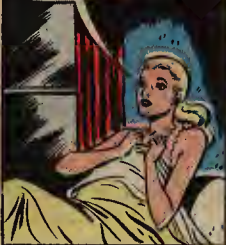
YOU---YOU VULGAR, INSUFFERABLE **APE!** YOU **BELONG** IN A CARNIVAL---IN A **ZOO!** IF I **NEVER** SEE YOU AGAIN, IT'LL BE **TOO SOON!**



"**BUT THAT NIGHT--IN MY CHICAGO HOTEL---**"

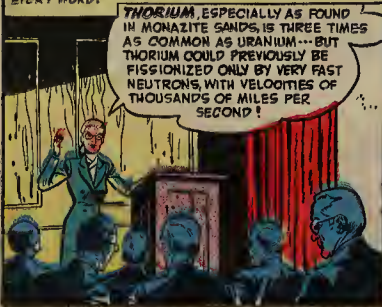


THAT DREAM---THE WAY HE KISSED ME---IT WOKE ME UP! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE WAY I FEEL---HE WAS A GROSS, UNCULTURED BOOR---AND YET---! OH, WELL---ANYWAY, I'LL NEVER SEE **HIM** AGAIN!



"**THE EXCITEMENT OF MY SPEECH AT THE CONVENTION DROVE ALL THOUGHTS OF EDDY JACKSON FROM MY MIND! I HAD AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO DELIVER---AND THE AUDIENCE OF CHEMISTS AND PHYSICISTS HUNG ON MY EVERY WORD!**"

**THORIUM**, ESPECIALLY AS FOUND IN MONAZITE SANDS, IS THREE TIMES AS COMMON AS URANIUM---BUT THORIUM COULD PREVIOUSLY BE FISSIONIZED ONLY BY VERY FAST NEUTRONS, WITH VELOCITIES OF THOUSANDS OF MILES PER SECOND!



HOWEVER, MY DISCOVERY OF A METHOD OF FISSIONIZING THORIUM ISOTOPE 230 WITH SLOW NEUTRONS NOW MAKES THE RELEASE OF ATOMIC ENERGY MERE **CHILD'S PLAY!**



"**I** STOPPED, STUNNED BY THAT ROARING VOICE! I LOOKED UP AT THE GALLERY...AND PRAYED THAT THE EARTH WOULD OPEN UP AT MY FEET AND SNATCH ME FROM THE SCENE OF MY UTER HUMILIATION!"

THAT'S TELLIN' THESE OLD FOSSILS WHAT A GAL CAN DO, LORRAINE! IF THEY WON'T CHEER YOU, AT LEAST I WILL...HOORAY FOR LORRAINE GRANT, THE BEST NUCLEOFEMALOGIST IN THIS WHOLE BUNCH OF BEARDED STUFFED SHIRTS!

CLAP!  
CLAP!

CLAP!

"**B**LINDED WITH TEARS OF SHAME, I SOMEHOW MANAGED TO STAMMER THROUGH THE REST OF MY SPEECH! AND THEN, AS I FLED FROM THE STAGE..."

MY DEAR, ALLOW ME TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON THE MOST BRILLIANT...

CONGRATULATE ME FOR **WHAT?** FOR THE **FIASCO** MY SPEECH TURNED INTO?

MY DEAR, THE ANTIOS OF AN UNCOUTH HOOLIGAN CAN'T POSSIBLY OBSCURE THE TRUE **SCIENTIFIO GENIUS** YOUR SPEECH DEMONSTRATED! AND I **PIERRE LAVOISIER**, HUMBLY THANK YOU!

**PIERRE LAVOISIER!** WHY, HE---HE'S FRANCE'S GREATEST SCIENTIST! I'VE ALWAYS **DREAMED** OF MEETING HIM SOME DAY!

THERE ARE SO MANY POINTS IN YOUR PAPER THAT I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU... MAY I ESCORT YOU BACK TO YOUR HOTEL?

WHY, I---I'D BE DELIGHTED, MONSIEUR LAVOISIER!

"**I** COULD SCARCELY BELIEVE MY GOOD FORTUNE IN HAVING ATTRACTED THE INTEREST OF THIS FAMED SCIENTIST! I'D ALWAYS ADMIRED HIM FROM HIS PICTURES, AND SOMEDAY FELT THAT THE SCAR ACQUIRED IN HIS EARLY DUELLING DAYS GAVE HIM AN AIR OF MAGNETIC INTRIGUE!"

IT WAS A VERITABLE MIRACLE HOW SOMEONE AS YOUNG AS **YOU** COULD HAVE DISCOVERED THAT METHOD OF FISSIONIZING THORIUM! AH, I WOULD GIVE TEN YEARS OF MY LIFE TO KNOW HOW YOU DID IT!

I'D LOVE TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT, IF I COULD! BUT IT'S HIGHLY SECRET--BECAUSE OF ITS ATOM BOMB POSSIBILITIES!

OF COURSE...I WOULD NEVER **DREAM** OF ASKING YOU TO TELL ME...MON DIEU! WHO IS THAT, KNOCKING LIKE A THUNDERBOLT?

I---I CAN'T IMAGINE! I'LL GO SEE...

BAM!  
BAM!  
BAM!

**HI, BABE!** LET'S GO OUT AND **CELEBRATE!** YOU KNOCKED 'EM DEAD WITH THAT SPEECH OF YOURS... AND I REALLY PUT THE CLINGER ON IT!

**YOU!  
GET...GET  
OUT OF  
HERE!**

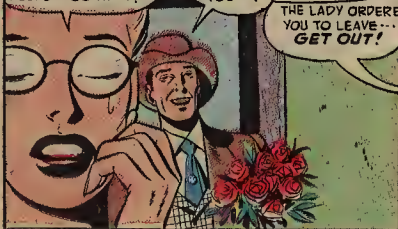


"THIS VULGAR DISPLAY...AND THIS TIME IN FRONT OF THE ONE MAN WHOSE RESPECT I LONGED FOR! IT WAS TOO MUCH...I COULDN'T FIGHT HIM ANYMORE..."

WHY...WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS TO ME? WHY DO YOU PERSECUTE ME SO...WHAT DID I EVER DO TO YOU? WHY CAN'T YOU LEAVE ME ALONE...GO AWAY?

PERSECUTE YOU...HEY, HONEY, YOU GOT ME **WRONG!** WHEN I SAW YOUR PICTURE IN THE NEWSPAPER WRITEUP ABOUT YOUR LECTURE, I JUST SHOWED UP TO **BOOST** YOU...

THE LADY ORDERED YOU TO LEAVE...**GET OUT!**



WELL, WELL, IF IT ISN'T **ALPHONSE**...ARE YOU STILL NUTS ABOUT THE GOOD OLD U.S.A.? YOU LOOK LIKE A CARNIVAL SIDESHOW WITH THAT GOAT-BEARD AND THAT SCAR! SAY **THAT SCAR**...

IN MY COUNTRY, MONSIEUR, YOUR INSULTS WOULD BE AVENGED IN A DUEL! BUT HERE...



...I BELIEVE THE CUSTOM IS **THIS!**

**HEY!!**

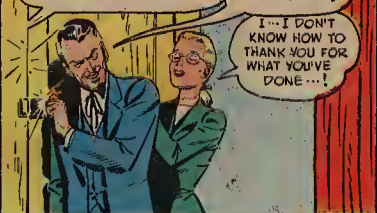


I STOOD ASTOUNDED, ROOTED TO THE SPOT WITH ADMIRATION FOR THIS MAN WHO HAD DISPLAYED SUCH STRENGTH...SUCH **MALENESS!** FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I REALIZED THAT A SCHOLAR, A SCIENTIFIC GENIUS, COULD ALSO BE A **REAL MAN!**

HEY, LEMME IN...YOU CAUGHT ME OFF BALANCE! ...LORRAINE, I'VE GOT TO TALK TO YOU...**LORRAINE!**

IF THAT RUFFIAN EVER ANNOYS YOU AGAIN, **LET ME KNOW!**

I...I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE...



AH, BUT I KNOW, MY DEAR! I WOULD CONSIDER MYSELF REPAYED IF I COULD BUT CONTINUE TO GAZE UPON YOUR LOVELINESS! WOULD YOU DO ME THE HONOR OF DINING WITH ME TOMORROW NIGHT?

I...I'D LOVE TO!



LORRAINE SO BEGAN AN ENCHANTED INTERLUDE! NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, MY SOARING HEART POUNDED AT PIERRE'S CLOSENESS, AT THE **ADORATION** SHINING FROM HIS EYES! AND THEN, ONE EVENING..."

LORRAINE...**DEAREST** ...I CAN RESTRAIN MY HEART NO LONGER! YOU HAVE CAPTURED IT! **I LOVE YOU**...



...AND WANT TO MARRY YOU!



"**BURNINGLY**, HIS EYES HELD MINE ...AND I FELT MY HEART BEATING **FASTER, FASTER!** AND THEN, LIKE A MAGIC SPELL, IT HAPPENED! WE WERE IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS, OUR LIPS MEETING IN **RHAPSODY OF ROMANCE!**"

"**YES, THIS** WAS THE ONLY MAN FOR ME... A MAN OF INTELLECT, CULTURE, GENIUS... AND A TENDER AND LOVING HEART!"

OH, DARLING... YOU'VE MADE ME THE MOST GLORIOUSLY HAPPY GIRL IN THE WORLD TONIGHT!

MY DEAR, MY DEAR! WE'LL BE MARRIED IN A FEW WEEKS...



"THE DAYS SPED SWIFTLY ON WINGS OF JOY! PIERRE AND I SPENT ALL OUR EVENINGS TOGETHER... AT OPERAS, CONCERTS, NIGHT SPOTS! AND SOON, I CAME TO REALIZE THAT OUR ROMANCE WAS NO LONGER SECRET!"

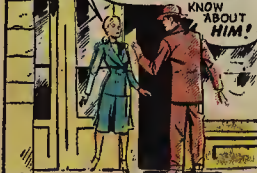
## CHICAGO CHIT-CHAT

LOVELY LORRAINE GRANT, ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S BRILLIANT NEW ATOMIC PHYSICISTS, IS BEING SQUIRED AROUND TOWN BY PIERRE LAVOISIER, FRANCES' GREAT SCIENTIFIC GENIUS. BY PIERRE'S REACTION OF LOVE RUMOR HAS IT THAT A CHAIN REACTION OF LOVE HAS SET IN, AND THAT THE EXPLOSION... ER, THE WEDDING... IS NOT FAR OFF!

"AND THEN, ONE MORNING, IN FRONT OF MY HOTEL..."

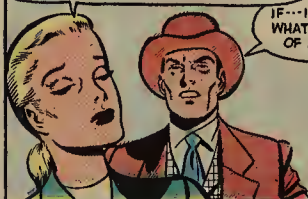
YOU AGAIN! GET AWAY FROM ME!

LORRAINE, YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS CHANCE TO SEE YOU... YOU CAN'T MARRY THAT FRENCHMAN! IT'S NOT JUST BECAUSE I LOVE YOU... THERE'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HIM!



"HE LOVED ME... HE'D PUT HIMSELF IN MY POWER BY SAYING THOSE WORDS! A FEELING OF SURGING TRIUMPH SWEEPED OVER ME AS I SAW MY CHANCE FOR REVENGING ALL MY HUMILIATIONS... FOR NOW I KNEW I COULD HURT HIM EVEN MORE THAN HE'D HURT ME!"

YOU... IN LOVE WITH ME? THAT'S THE JOKE OF THE CENTURY! YOU VULGAR APE, DID YOU THINK I COULD EVER SINK LOW ENOUGH TO CONSIDER A SWINISH LOUT LIKE YOU?



IF... IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK OF ME...

I... I WON'T WASTE YOUR TIME ANY LONGER... I'M SORRY IF I'VE TROUBLED YOU! GOODBYE, LORRAINE!

THAT LOOK ON HIS FACE IS PAYMENT ENOUGH FOR ALL THE INSULTS AND SHAME I HAD TO ENDURE! BUT SOMEHOW, I... I'M NOT GETTING THE KICK OUT OF HURTING HIM THAT I EXPECTED!



"BUT ALL REGRETS WERE FORGOTTEN, DRIVEN FROM MY MIND THE NEXT DAY, WHEN..."

DEAREST, I'VE GOT MARVELOUS NEWS FOR YOU! PACK YOUR BAGS... WE'RE LEAVING RIGHT NOW... TO GET MARRIED! MY CAR'S DOWNSTAIRS... WE'LL DRIVE INTO CANADA FOR THE WEDDING... I'ND... OUR MONEY-MOON!

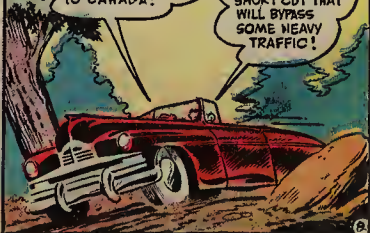
OH, DARLING, HOW I'VE WAITED TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT!



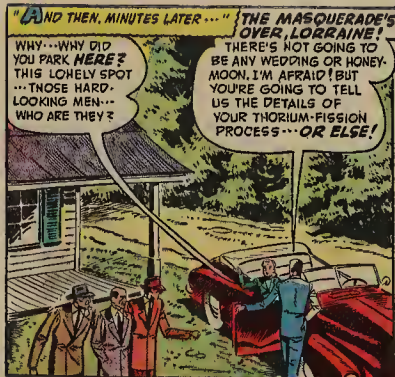
"AT LAST! THIS WAS TO BE THE HAPPIEST DAY OF MY LIFE... THE CULMINATION OF MY FONDEST DREAMS! MY HEART WAS SINGING WITH AN EXULTANT JOY AS WE STARTED OUT, AND THE MILES SPED SWIFTLY BY! BUT THEN..."

PIERRE, WHY DID YOU TURN OFF ON THIS SIDE ROAD?... THIS DOESN'T HEAD NORTH TO CANADA!

DON'T WORRY YOUR PRETTY LITTLE HEAD, DEAREST... I'M JUST TAKING A SHORT CUT THAT WILL BYPASS SOME HEAVY TRAFFIC!

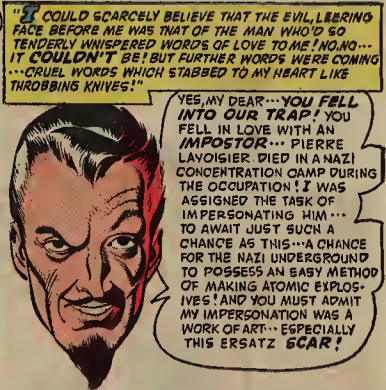






"AND THEN, MINUTES LATER..."  
WHY...WHY DID YOU PARK HERE?  
THIS LOVELY SPOT...THOSE HARD-LOOKING MEN...WHO ARE THEY?

**THE MASQUERADE'S OVER, LORRAINE!**  
THERE'S NOT GOING TO BE ANY WEDDING OR HONEY-MOON. I'M AFRAID! BUT YOU'RE GOING TO TELL US THE DETAILS OF YOUR THORIUM-FISSION PROCESS...OR ELSE!



"I COULD SCARCELY BELIEVE THAT THE EVIL, LEERING FACE BEFORE ME WAS THAT OF THE MAN WHO'D SO TENDERLY WHISPERED WORDS OF LOVE TO ME! NO, NO... IT COULDN'T BE! BUT FURTHER WORDS WERE COMING... CRUEL WORDS WHICH STABBED TO MY HEART LIKE THROBBING KNIVES!"

YES, MY DEAR... YOU FELL INTO OUR TRAP! YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH AN IMPOSTOR... PIERRE LAVOISIER DIED IN A NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMP DURING THE OCCUPATION! I WAS ASSIGNED THE TASK OF IMPERSONATING HIM... TO AWAIT JUST SUCH A CHANCE AS THIS... A CHANCE FOR THE NAZI UNDERGROUND TO POSSESS AN EASY METHOD OF MAKING ATOMIC EXPLOSIVES! AND YOU MUST ADMIT MY IMPERSONATION WAS A WORK OF ART... ESPECIALLY THIS ERSATZ SCAR!



OH, WHY... WHY DID YOU HAVE TO PROLONG THE AGONY? WHY DIDN'T YOU KIDNAP ME THAT FIRST NIGHT WE MET... BEFORE I THOUGHT I LOVED YOU...?

MERELY BECAUSE YOUR DISAPPEARANCE WOULD HAVE CAUSED AN INVESTIGATION! I HAD TO WAIT UNTIL EVERYONE KNEW ABOUT OUR SO-CALLED "ROMANCE"... NOW THEY WILL ALL THINK YOU HAVE SECRETLY ELOPED!... BUT ENOUGH OF THIS TALK... GET INTO THE HOUSE!



I'LL NEVER TELL YOU WHAT YOU WANT... OHH-HHH! MY ARM...

THAT WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING! DON'T FORCE US TO USE MORE PERSUASIVE MEANS!



"QUESTION AFTER QUESTION WAS HURLED!... AND FERVENTLY, I PRAYED FOR UNCONSCIOUSNESS TO COME BEFORE THE INFORMATION WAS WRESTED FROM ME!"

WHAT IS YOUR THORIUM PROCESS? HOW IS THE ISOTOPE REFINED? ANSWER ME!

NO, NO... I WON'T! HELP! HELP!

OKAY, YOU RAT! LET HER GO!

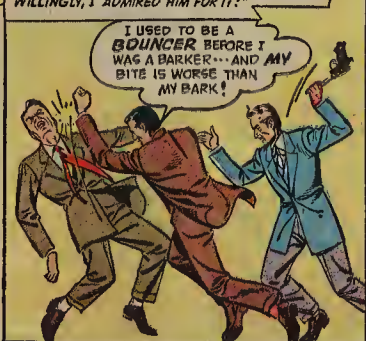


WHA... YOU! GET HIM!

IF YOU CAN!

"MIRACULOUSLY, HE HAD COME OUT OF NOWHERE... TO FIGHT FOR ME WITH SAVAGE ABANDON! BUT WHY... WHY?"

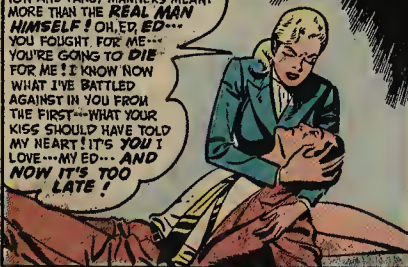
"THIS WAS A GRIM BATTLE AGAINST ODDS... A COURAGE I'O NEVER SEEN EQUALED! AND UNWILLINGLY, I ADMIRE HIM FOR IT!"





"**IT** WAS THEN THAT THE SCALES OF FALSE PRIDE FELL FROM MY EYES! FOR THE FIRST TIME, I SAW ED AS HE REALLY WAS...SIMPLE, WARM-HEARTED, HONEST...AND I HATED MYSELF FOR WHAT I'D DONE TO HIM!"

I--- I'VE BEEN A HEARTLESS WRETCH--- THINKING THAT EDUCATION AND FANCY MANNERS MEANT MORE THAN THE **REAL MAN HIMSELF!** OH, ED, ED... YOU FOUGHT FOR ME... YOU'RE GOING TO **DIE** FOR ME! I KNOW NOW WHAT I'VE BATTLED AGAINST IN YOU FROM THE FIRST--- WHAT YOUR KISS SHOULD HAVE TOLD MY HEART! IT'S **YOU** I LOVE... MY ED... AND NOW IT'S TOO LATE!



"**THE** MOMENTS DRAGGED AS I HELD HIM CLOSE IN MY ARMS! THEN HE STIRRED... SAT UP..."

OH, MY HEAD! WHERE AM I--- **NOW I REMEMBER!** I'D SUSPECTED PIERRE... HIS PHONY SCAR COULDN'T FOOL AN OLD CARNIVAL MAN LIKE ME... AND IF HIS SCAR WAS PHONY, I FIGURED MAYBE THE REST OF HIM WAS, TOO! I TRIED TELLING YOU... AND WHEN YOU WOULDNT LISTEN, I DECIDED TO WATCH HIM. SEE WHAT HIS GAME WAS! I FOLLOWED YOU---

SHHH--- I HEAR A CAR OUTSIDE! THEY'RE COMING BACK-- **FOR US!**



AH, I SEE YOUR FOOLISH FRIEND IS STILL UNCONSCIOUS! --- HERE ARE THE THINGS YOU REQUESTED! NOW START TALKING... AND NO MORE DELAYS!

HE'S PLAYING POSSUM... I'LL HAVE TO STALL FOR TIME... MAYBE HE HAS A PLAN!

ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO INTO THE OTHER ROOM--- WHERE THERE'S MORE LIGHT!



"**I** COULDN'T AFFORD TO AROUSE THEIR SUSPICION'S--- I HAD TO START TALKING! BUT AS I SPOKE, A VOICE WITHIN ME KEPT CRYING, PRAYING THAT MY LOVE WOULD FIND SOME WAY TO SAVE US... AND AMERICA... FROM CATASTROPHE!"

THE CRITICAL MASS OF THORIUM IS 1.74 KILOGRAMS --- ANYTHING ABOVE THAT WEIGHT WILL EXPLODE INSTANTANEOUSLY... AND ATOMICALLY! NOW IF--- IF YOU WANT TO USE IT IN A BOMB, YOU WILL HAVE TO

REFINE THE 230 ISOTOPE IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER---



ANYTHING ELSE I SAY WILL GIVE THE ENTIRE SECRET AWAY... OH, WHY DOESN'T ED DO SOMETHING?

WELL, WHY ARE YOU STOPPING? GO ON... THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART!



I... I CAN'T... I CAN'T TELL YOU! DO WHATEVER YOU WANT WITH ME... BUT I CAN'T BETRAY MY COUNTRY!

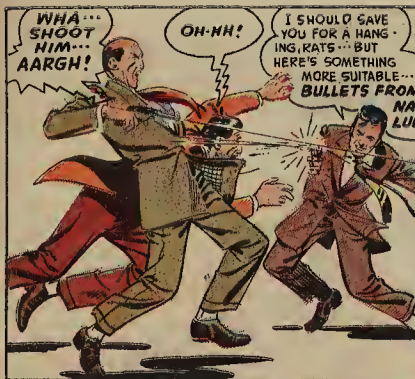
I'LL COUNT UP TO THREE! YOU'LL EITHER TALK... OR DIE!



ONE... TWO... TH... OWWW!

THREE!





WHA...  
SHOOT  
HIM...  
AARGH!

OH-HH!

I SHOULD HAVE  
YOU FOR A HANG-  
ING, RATS... BUT  
HERE'S SOMETHING  
MORE SUITABLE...  
BULLETS FROM A  
NAZI  
LUGER!



YOU'VE STILL GOT  
ME TO RECKON  
WITH, FOOL!

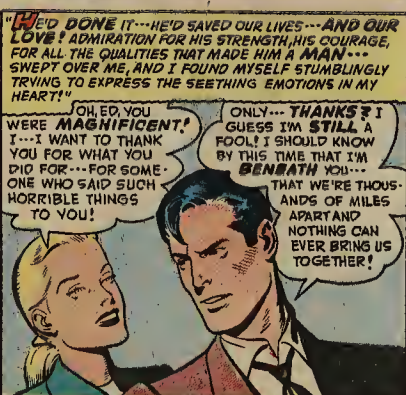
MISTER, YOU DON'T  
KNOW HOW WRONG  
YOU ARE!

BAM!



AND NOW... WE'LL  
LET THE F.B.I.  
TAKE OVER,  
HUH?

UGH!



"HE'D DONE IT... HE'D SAVED OUR LIVES... AND OUR  
LOVE! ADMIRATION FOR HIS STRENGTH, HIS COURAGE,  
FOR ALL THE QUALITIES THAT MADE HIM A MAN...  
SWEEPED OVER ME, AND I FOUND MYSELF STUMBLINGLY  
TRYING TO EXPRESS THE SEETHING EMOTIONS IN MY  
HEART!"

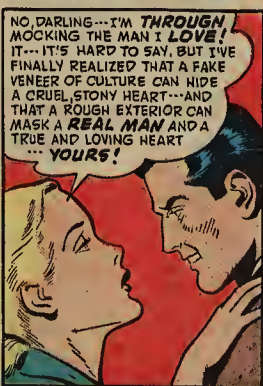
OH, ED, YOU  
WERE MAGNIFICENT!  
I... I WANT TO THANK  
YOU FOR WHAT YOU  
DID FOR... FOR SOME-  
ONE WHO SAID SUCH  
HORRIBLE THINGS  
TO YOU!

ONLY... THANKS? I  
GUESS I'M STILL A  
FOOL! I SHOULD KNOW  
BY THIS TIME THAT I'M  
BENEATH YOU...  
THAT WE'RE THOUS-  
ANDS OF MILES  
APART AND  
NOTHING CAN  
EVER BRING US  
TOGETHER!

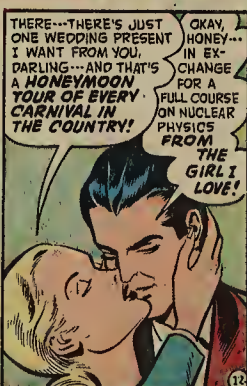


NO,  
NOTHING  
...EXCEPT  
LOVE!

LORRAINE...  
YOU DON'T  
MEAN...? YOU'RE NOT  
MOCKING ME  
AGAIN?



NO, DARLING... I'M THROUGH  
MOCKING THE MAN I LOVE!  
IT... IT'S HARD TO SAY, BUT I'VE  
FINALLY REALIZED THAT A FAKE  
VENEER OF CULTURE CAN HIDE  
A CRUEL, STONY HEART... AND  
THAT A ROUGH EXTERIOR CAN  
MASK A REAL MAN AND A  
TRUE AND LOVING HEART  
... YOURS!



THERE... THERE'S JUST  
ONE WEDDING PRESENT  
I WANT FROM YOU,  
DARLING... AND THAT'S  
A HONEYMOON  
TOUR OF EVERY  
CARNIVAL IN  
THE COUNTRY!

OKAY,  
HONEY...  
IN EX-  
CHANGE  
FOR A  
FULL COURSE  
ON NUCLEAR  
PHYSICS  
FROM  
THE  
GIRL I  
LOVE!



# Night LETTER

ED WILLIAMS had a hard knot of jealous anger inside him. Maybe he wasn't good enough for Evelyn. All right, maybe he wasn't! But that didn't stop him from hating this new guy, Peter Mann, who had come to work in the plant only a couple of months ago. They were a steady twosome, Pete and Evelyn. She had a special look for him!

"Well, I'm gonna break *that* up!" Ed thought, his jaw set hard. "I'll throw a monkey wrench into that little romance! Maybe Evelyn can learn to love *me*. Maybe she'll *have* to!"

He caught hold of Pete in the smoking room that afternoon. He was friendly, so friendly, as he offered Pete a light. "Got a date with Evelyn tonight?" he asked.

"Sure have!" Pete's smile lit up his face.

"Look, pal, I might save you a lot of grief. Why don't you ask her about *Bob Anderson*? Just ask her who *Bob* is!"

"I'm beginning to think I don't like you, Williams!" Pete's fist tightened so that the knuckles almost burst the skin.

"Save it, kid. I'm doing you a big favor!" Ed flicked the match into an ash tray and strolled off. He had started it . . . the black thread of suspicion that would eventually choke the romance and kill it!

Pete Mann had determined to forget it, but he couldn't. That name formed a wall between Evelyn and him as he sat next to her in the movies that night. Who was *Bob Anderson*? What did he mean to Evelyn? It was no use ignoring it. He *had* to ask her. Evelyn was serving coffee in her living room after the movies when he made the plunge.

"Honey," said Pete. "Who's *Bob Anderson*?"

Evelyn's hands trembled as she set the tray down. Suddenly, her face was drained of color. She tried to speak, but no sound came for a few seconds. Her voice was flat and hopeless when she finally spoke.

"Bob worked with me at another place a few years ago," she said. "He told me he loved me and I . . . I thought I loved him. He was pretty wild and got into some bad scrapes. The worst one was a gambling debt . . . he'd been betting heavily . . . and losing. He was desperate when he asked me to . . . to borrow some money from the office funds . . . about five hundred dollars. Only for a week, he said—and I was the only one who knew. I . . . took the money on his promise to pay back. Well, he didn't and I was arrested for embezzlement." Her voice was still flat, lifeless. "I got off with a suspended sentence on my promise to repay the money out of my salary. The debt's all paid up. Now you know."

"You poor, wonderful, honest kid!" Pete's arms were around her, his lips brushing her hair, her forehead. "It took *guts* to tell that story. Don't tell me any more. I love you, darling. Don't cry any more, baby!"

For Evelyn was shaking with heavy sobs, crying at last in the arms of the man she loved.

About a week later, Ed Williams was notified that he had received a night letter. He tore it open—and knew he had lost! It said, "Thanks for the tip, Williams. Your suggestion helped more than you'll ever know!"

It came from a small countryside place where honeymooners loved to go and was signed "Mr. and Mrs. Peter Mann!"

# Love is A Challenge

YES, I KNOW THAT LOVE OFTEN DEMANDS A HEARTBREAKING CHOICE -- IN MY CASE, THE CHOICE BETWEEN THE MAN WHO FELL IN LOVE WITH MY PORTRAIT -- AND THE ARTIST WHO PAINTED IT! BUT ROMANCE MEANS MORE THAN A DECISION -- MORE THAN A WILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE -- AS I LEARNED WHEN ANOTHER WOMAN'S RIVALRY TAUGHT ME THAT *Love is a Challenge!*

**M**OST GIRLS DON'T GET THE CHANCE TO OWN FURS AND BEAUTIFUL CLOTHES -- SO I WAS READY TO SETTLE FOR THE NEXT BEST THING -- THE CHANCE TO WEAR THEM! "

"**M**ODEL WANTED -- WILLING TO TRADE SMALL SALARY FOR BRIGHT FUTURE!" THIS IS THE TENTH TIME I'VE READ THIS AD -- BUT NOW MY MIND'S MADE UP! I'M GOING TO NEW YORK -- AND GET THAT JOB!



**M**Y HOPES DIDN'T DY'NDLE UNTIL I REACHED NEW YORK NEXT DAY -- AND FOUND THE ADDRESS I WAS LOOKING FOR IN A SHABBY SECTION OF GREENWICH VILLAGE! "

THERE **CAN'T** BE ANY MISTAKE -- HERE'S THE NAME OF THE MAN WHO ADVERTISED! BUT WHAT KIND OF MODEL AGENCY WOULD BE LOCATED IN A PLACE LIKE **THIS?**



**I'**LL NEVER FORGET MY JOLTING DISAPPOINTMENT -- WHEN I MET DEAN STOCKTON FOR THE FIRST TIME! "

I WAS BEGINNING TO LOSE HOPE THAT ANYONE WOULD ANSWER MY AD! HAVE YOU EVER MODELED FOR AN ARTIST BEFORE, MISS HALL?

**AN ARTIST!** GOOD HEAVENS!... I THOUGHT YOU WANTED SOMEONE TO MODEL **CLOTHES!** I--I COULDN'T EVEN CONSIDER **POSING!**





SORRY I BOTHERED YOU... BUT I MIGHT AS WELL TAKE THE NEXT TRAIN OUT OF NEW YORK AND FORGET THE WHOLE THING!

WAIT! MAYBE IT SOUNDS LIKE A LINE, BUT I'M SURE I HAVE A SUCCESSFUL CAREER AHEAD OF ME -- IF I CAN ONLY COUNT ON INSPIRATION! THAT'S ALL I NEED -- ALL I ASK FOR --

Dean Stockton  
STUDIO

"AND I'VE GOT A HUNCH YOU CAN BE AN INSPIRATION!"

I'D LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT -- BUT I KNOW I MUSTN'T!

"FOR A MOMENT, HIS ARMS AND EYES HELD ME -- THEN I TURNED -- AND FLEO DOWN THE STAIRS!"

BARBARA -- PLEASE! COME BACK!

"IT WAS A BITTER COMEDOWN -- DREAMING OF A JOURNEY TO THE STARS -- ONLY TO WIND UP BUYING A RETURN TICKET TO HILLSDALE! BUT AS I WALKED TOWARD THE TRAIN GATE --"

I'M GLAD YOU MEANT WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT TAKING THE NEXT TRAIN HOME, BARBARA -- BECAUSE THAT MEANT MY BEING ABLE TO FIND YOU!

DEAN!

"I TRIED TO TELL DEAN HE WAS WASTING HIS TIME -- BUT THE WORDS DIDN'T RING TRUE -- NOT EVEN TO ME!"

LOOK -- SUPPOSE WE GO TO A SMALL RESTAURANT DOWN THE BLOCK? THERE'S ANOTHER TRAIN LEAVING FOR HILLSDALE AT TEN O'CLOCK -- AND IF YOU STILL WANT TO GO BACK AFTER WE'VE HAD DINNER AND TALKED, I WON'T TRY TO STOP YOU! IS IT A DEAL?

YES, IT'S A DEAL -- BUT I STILL THINK YOU'RE HOLDING ALL THE CARDS!

HILLSDALE

"I DIDN'T LEARN MUCH ABOUT ART DURING THE NEXT TWO HOURS -- BUT I DID LEARN ABOUT DEAN STOCKTON -- HIS WONDERFUL DRIVE AND VITALITY WHICH STIRRED ME WITH EVERY GLANCE AND WORD!"

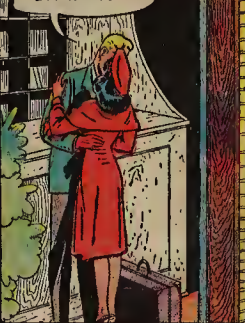
AN ARTIST MUST HAVE CONFIDENCE IN HIMSELF, BARBARA -- HE HAS TO KNOW WHAT HE WANTS -- AND WHAT I WANT MOST IS TO CAPTURE YOUR LOVELINESS IN A PAINTING! I NEVER EXPECTED TO DO A MASTERPIECE AT THIS STAGE -- BUT IT JUST MEANS COPYING WHAT I SEE BEFORE ME -- HERE!

WON'T YOU RECONSIDER?

ALL RIGHT, DEAN -- YOU'VE GOT A MODEL!

"IT HAPPENED THEN -- SUDDENLY -- BY SOME MAGIC FORCE NEITHER OF US COULD WITHSTAND --"

I -- I KNOW THIS IS CRAZY -- THAT WE HARDLY KNOW EACH OTHER -- BUT YOU'VE DONE THINGS TO MY HEART, BARBARA!



"MY OWN HEART SOARED LIKE A ROCKET -- AND MY PULSE SEEMED TO CHANT OVER AND OVER, 'THIS IS LOVE! THIS IS LOVE!'"

"FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS, DON WORKED WITH A DRIVING INTENSITY—HIS QUICK GAZE UPON ME, AND YET MILES AWAY, AS HE STOOD AT HIS EASEL!"



"THEN, ONE NIGHT—WHILE THE DIMMED STUDIO LIGHTS GLEAMED ON THE STILL-MOIST CANVAS—"

THE PAINTING'S FINISHED, BARBARA—OUR PAINTING!

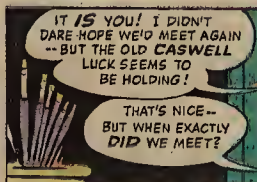


IT'S WONDERFUL, DEAN! YOU'VE CAPTURED A PART OF ME I NEVER DREAMED EXISTED!

THEN IT'S MINE, DARLING—MINE BY RIGHT OF DISCOVERY!



"YES, I WAS HEAD OVER HEELS IN LOVE! BUT LOVE IS A CHALLENGE—AND PART OF THAT CHALLENGE LIES IN THE UNEXPECTED! JUST A FEW DAYS AFTER DEAN HAD TAKEN MY PORTRAIT TO AN ART DEALER—WHILE I WAS ALONE IN THE STUDIO—"



IT IS YOU! I DIDN'T DARE HOPE WE'D MEET AGAIN—BUT THE OLD CASWELL LUCK SEEMS TO BE HOLDING!

THAT'S NICE—BUT WHEN EXACTLY DID WE MEET?



YESTERDAY—WHEN I BOUGHT YOUR PORTRAIT! DON'T LAUGH WHEN I SAY I'VE SAT UP MOST OF THE NIGHT LOOKING AT IT—WONDERING WHETHER YOU REALLY EXISTED—OR WHETHER I'D EVER FIND YOU! NOW THAT I HAVE—WHAT ABOUT AN EVENING TOGETHER? TOMORROW NIGHT?

"THERE WASN'T MUCH FOR ME TO LEARN ABOUT ROBERT CASWELL, BECAUSE—UNLIKE DEAN—HE WAS WEALTHY, A MAN WHO TOOK THINGS IN HIS STRIDE—including ME!"

"FOR THE FIRST TIME, I DETECTED A BARBEQ GLEAM IN MYRNA'S BEAUTIFUL EYES—A GLANCE THAT COULD HAVE WARNED ME—BUT DIDN'T!"

I WISH YOU HAD A SECRETARY SOLELY TO KEEP YOUR CONQUESTS STRAIGHT, ROBERT! MAYBE THEN YOU'D HAVE REMEMBERED YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO SEE ME TONIGHT!

SORRY I FORGOT, MYRNA! MEET BARBARA HALL—THE GIRL IN THE PORTRAIT STOCKTON PAINTED!

OH—A MODEL! ROBERT, DARLING—YOU MEET SUCH INTERESTING PEOPLE!

IT'S A STRANGE WAY TO MAKE A DATE—BUT WHY NOT?





**"IT'S THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING IN LOVE-- AND BEING HOPELESSLY AND BREATHLESSLY INFATUATED! DEAN HAD MY HEART AWNIRL, WHILE ROBERT MERELY TURNED MY HEAD! AND ONE EVENING, I HAD TO MAKE A CHOICE!"**

**I'M TICKLED THAT YOU TWO HAVE BEEN PAINTING THE TOWN THESE PAST FEW WEEKS --BUT I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU WERE A LITTLE MORE INTERESTED IN WHAT I'M PAINTING, BARBARA!**

**TAKE IT EASY, STOCKTON! IF IT'S A QUESTION OF MY KEEPING BARBARA FROM HER WORK -- I'LL BE GLAD TO MAKE UP WHATEVER YOU'RE PAYING HER!**



**YOU'VE GOT THE QUAINET IDEA MONEY CAN BUY ANYTHING, HAVENT' YOU? GET THIS STRAIGHT, CASWELL -- BUYING ONE OF MY PAINTINGS DOESN'T GIVE YOU ANY CLAIM ON MY PERSONAL LIFE -- AND MY PERSONAL LIFE INCLUDES BARBARA! NOW... GET OUT!**

**DEAN -- STOP! YOU'RE ACTING TERRIBLY!**



**"AFTER ROBERT LEFT..."**

**WELL, I GUESS THE LAUGH'S ON ME! FIRST YOU INSPIRE ME TO PAINT MY GREATEST PORTRAIT -- AND THEN I LOSE YOU -- BECAUSE OF THE PORTRAIT!**

**WHY DO YOU LET YOUR IMAGINATION TORTURE YOU, DEAN? A FEW HARMLESS DATES DON'T MEAN YOU'VE LOST ME!**



**REMEMBER TELLING ME THAT THE PAINTING SHOWED A PART OF YOU THAT WAS NEW AND FRESH -- THE PART OF YOU I DISCOVERED? THAT'S WHAT I'VE LOST, BARBARA -- SOMETHING THAT CASWELL SEEMS TO HAVE INHERITED!**

**YOU NEEDN'T SAY ANY MORE, DEAN -- I'M GOING!**



**"EACH STEP DOWN THE FAMILIAR, RICKETY STAIRS WAS AN ORDEAL! UNWITTINGLY, I HAD HURT DEAN -- ANGRILY, HE HAD HURT ME -- AND NOW THERE WAS NO TURNING BACK!"**



**"AND SO, THREE MONTHS LATER -- I MARRIED ROBERT! IN MY FIRST FLUSH OF HAPPINESS, I FELT I HAD EVERYTHING -- INCLUDING ONE THING I COULDN'T BEAR TO LOOK AT!"**

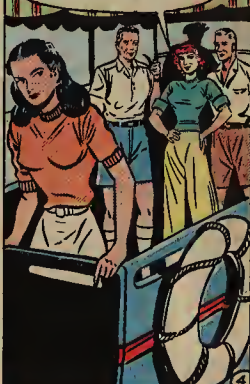
**IT'S JUST A WHIM, ROBERT -- BUT I WISH YOU'D HANG THAT PICTURE OF ME IN ONE OF THE UNUSED GUEST ROOMS!**

**YOU NEEDN'T BE AFRAID THAT THE PORTRAIT IS SOMETHING YOU'LL HAVE TO LIVE UP TO, DARLING! YOU'LL ALWAYS BE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ANY ARTIST CAN EVER MAKE YOU -- MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN I CAN EVER TELL YOU!**



**"THERE WERE OTHER THINGS ROBERT DIDN'T TELL ME -- THINGS I STUMBLED ONTO -- THINGS THAT GAVE ME MY FIRST TRUE GLIMPSE OF THE MAN I MARRIED! I LEARNED I HAD NO PLACE AMONG HIS FRIENDS --"**

**WHY, OF COURSE ROBERT'S HAPPY! AFTER ALL -- BARBARA SHOULDN'T FIND IT HARD TO BE A MODEL WIFE!**



**I** LEARNED IT WAS A MISTAKE  
TO CALL AT ROBERT'S OFFICE  
UNEXPECTEDLY -- "

BOB, YOU'RE A FINANCIAL WIZARD --  
BUT YOU'VE GOT TO LEARN THAT  
SHREWD INVESTMENT IS ONE THING --  
AND GAMBLING WITH OTHER  
PEOPLE'S MONEY IS ANOTHER!

**BARBARA!**  
HANG IT -- HOW DID  
YOU SLIP PAST MY  
SECRETARY?



"AND I LEARNED WHAT LAY BEHIND  
THAT BARBED GLEAM IN  
MYRNA SHAW'S EYES! "

YOU CAN'T LOVE HER, ROBERT --  
AND YOU CAN'T LACK THE COURAGE  
TO TELL HER SO! IF I CAN FORGIVE  
THE IMPULSE THAT MADE YOU MARRY  
HER, THE LEAST SHE CAN DO IS  
LET YOU GO -- BECAUSE I WON'T,  
DARLING -- **I WON'T!**

MYRNA, MAYBE I DID  
FALL IN LOVE WITH NOTHING  
MORE THAN AN IMAGE -- THE  
FACE I SAW IN THAT  
BEWITCHING  
PORTRAIT!



"MY FIRST TORTURED REACTION  
URGED ME TO LEAVE ROBERT --  
TO TURN MY BACK ON HIS EMPTY  
WORDS, HIS SHALLOW FRIENDS  
AND STRANGELY SECRET BUSINESS  
ACTIVITIES! BUT WHEN IT CAME  
TIME TO ACT -- I WAS HELPLESS!  
I HAD GIVEN UP DEAN FOR  
ROBERT -- BUT NOW MYRNA  
SHOWED ME THAT LOVE WAS A  
CHALLENGE! I WAITED -- HOPING  
SOMEHOW TO FIND A WAY TO MEET  
IT! "

"A YEAR PASSED -- AND IT WAS  
STARTLING TO FIND HOW TWO  
WORDS COULD LEAP OUT FROM  
AMONG THE THOUSANDS ON AN  
IDLY TURNED NEWSPAPER PAGE! "

**DEAN STOCKTON!**  
THIS ITEM IN THE  
ART NEWS IS  
ABOUT HIM!



ART SECTION  
Young Painter  
Opens First  
One-Man Show  
Today ...

"I TRIED TO CONVINCE MYSELF  
IT WAS THE **PAINTINGS** I  
WANTED TO SEE -- AND NOT  
**DEAN!** "

I SUPPOSE THE EXHIBIT IS AT SOME  
OBSCURE GALLERY -- AND THAT POOR  
DEAN IS STILL STRUGGLING AGAINST  
NEAR-POVERTY! ANYWAY, I WANT  
TO SEE WHAT PROGRESS HE'S  
MAKING -- AND IF I WEAR THIS  
HAT, THERE ISN'T MUCH CHANCE  
OF HIS SEEING **ME!**



"I REALIZED MY MISTAKE WHEN  
I REACHED THE GALLERY -- A  
FASHIONABLE ONE ON MADISON  
AVENUE! DOZENS OF SOCIALITES  
SWARMED AROUND DEAN --  
INCLUDING MYRNA! "

DEAN, DARLING -- YOU'D MAKE  
**THOUSANDS** IF YOU'D ONLY  
GET OVER YOUR

PECULIAR  
DISLIKE FOR  
PAINTING  
**FACES!**

YES, I KNOW  
THERE'S MONEY  
IN PORTRAITS -- BUT  
I HAVEN'T PAINTED  
ONE FOR OVER A YEAR  
-- **AND I DON'T  
INTEND TO!**



"THEN -- AS I TURNED  
TO LOOK AT DEAN'S  
PAINTINGS -- "

THEY'RE ALL  
**WOMEN** -- WOMEN  
WITH THEIR FACES TURNED  
AWAY -- AND EVERY ONE OF  
THE FIGURES RESEMBLES  
**MINE!**





"**S**UDDENLY, DEAN LOOKED UP--RECOGNIZING ME!  
HOW COULD HE HELP RECOGNIZING ME--THE FACELESS FORM THAT MATCHED THE ONES IN HIS FACELESS PAINTINGS?"



**BARBARA!**

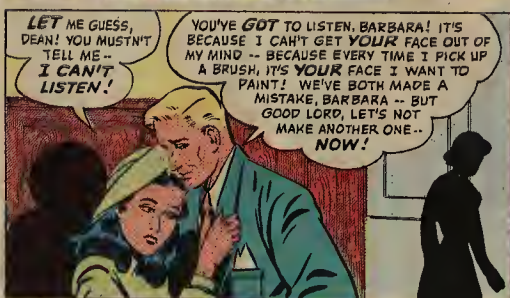
I CAN'T FACE HIM!  
I--I CAN'T BE SURE  
OF MYSELF IF  
I DO!

"HE OVERTOOK ME!  
I TRIED TO BE MATTER OF FACT--  
TRIED TO SMILE CASUALLY AT THE FACE I SAW MISTILY, THROUGH RELUCTANT TEARS!"



IT'S A NICE SHOW, DEAN! I'M REALLY PROUD OF YOU!

IS *THAT* ALL YOU'VE LEARNED FROM CASWELL, BARBARA--**PRETENDING?** I HAPPEN TO KNOW YOU HAVEN'T BEEN HAPPY--AND AS FOR ME--CAN'T YOU **GUESS** WHY NONE OF THOSE PAINTINGS HAVE FACES?



LET ME GUESS, DEAN! YOU MUSTN'T TELL ME--  
**I CAN'T LISTEN!**

YOU'VE **GOT** TO LISTEN, BARBARA! IT'S BECAUSE I CAN'T GET **YOUR** FACE OUT OF MY MIND--BECAUSE EVERY TIME I PICK UP A BRUSH, IT'S **YOUR** FACE I WANT TO PAINT! WE'VE BOTH MADE A MISTAKE, BARBARA--BUT GOOD LORD, LET'S NOT MAKE ANOTHER ONE--  
**NOW!**



"DEAN DREW ME TOWARD HIM--AND BY THE TIME I REMEMBERED MYSELF--"



QUITE A VICTORY FOR MYRNA--SEEING ME SINK DOWN TO HER LEVEL! I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE, DEAN--YOU'VE GOT TO FORGET YOU SAW ME!

HOW **CAN** I, BARBARA?--OH, IF THINGS COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN **DIFFERENT!**



"I LEFT DEAN TORMENTED--UNEASILY SUSPECTING THAT MYRNA WOULD LOSE NO TIME TELLING ROBERT ABOUT THE SCENE IN THE GALLERY! NOTHING ELSE ENTERED MY DAZED MIND--NOT EVEN THE NEWSPAPER HEADLINES!"

**EXTRY! EXTRY!**



"THEN--AS I PULLED INTO THE DRIVEWAY--"

**BANG!**

GOOD HEAVENS! THAT WAS A SHOT--  
**INSIDE!**

**ROBERT!**  
MYRNA,  
SAY  
SOMETHING!  
--WHAT  
HAPPENED?

I DIDN'T DO  
IT-- I DIDN'T  
DO IT! I TRIED  
TO GET THE GUN  
AWAY FROM HIM--  
BUT HE PUSHED  
ME ASIDE!

NO --NOT SUICIDE!  
THAT I CAN'T  
BELIEVE!

HAVEN'T YOU SEEN  
THE PAPERS-- DON'T  
YOU **KNOW** HIS FIRM  
FAILED AFTER ROBERT  
PLAYED THE MARKET  
WITH HIS CLIENTS'  
MONEY?

**WOOD OUC**

**"THE  
POLICE!**

SENSING  
MYRNA'S  
TERROR,  
I HAD AN  
OVERWHELMING  
DESIRE FOR  
REVENGE--  
REVENGE FOR  
THE MARRIAGE  
MYRNA HAD  
WRECKED--  
REVENGE FOR  
THE COUNTLESS  
HUMILIATIONS  
SHE HAD HEAPED  
ON ME!

SUPPOSE  
I MERELY TOLD  
THE POLICE  
THE TRUTH--  
THAT MYRNA  
DESPERATELY  
WANTED ROBERT  
TO LEAVE ME--  
THAT I HAD  
FOUND HER  
STANDING BESIDE  
HIM WITHIN  
SECONDS AFTER  
THE SHOT?  
**WHAT  
WOULD A  
JURY  
THINK?"**

"YES, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SO  
EASY-- BUT I COULDN'T GO  
THROUGH WITH IT!"

WE'VE GOT A  
WARRANT FOR  
THE ARREST OF  
**ROBERT  
CASWELL!**

HE'S-- IN THERE!  
MY FRIEND AND  
I FOUND HIM  
ON THE FLOOR  
WHEN WE  
ARRIVED!

"TO MAKE UP AT LEAST PART OF  
THE MONEY DUE ROBERT'S  
INVESTORS -- I AUCTIONED OFF  
THE ENTIRE PROPERTY! AND AS  
THE BIDDING CAME TO A CLOSE  
ON MY PORTRAIT-- MY LAST TIE  
TO A MARRIAGE THAT HAD FAILED--"

I'M BID ONE THOUSAND  
DOLLARS FOR THIS PORTRAIT!  
GOING **ONCE**-- GOING  
**TWICE**--

**ELEVEN  
HUNDRED!**

"IN ONE OF THE EMPTY  
ROOMS OF WHAT HAD  
BEEN MY HOME --"

DARLING, IN A FEW  
MONTHS WE CAN PRETEND  
NONE OF THIS REALLY HAPPENED!

**I WANT YOU  
TO MARRY  
ME!**

DEAN --HOW CAN  
WE **BOTH** BE SURE  
YOU'RE NOT ACTING OUT  
OF PITY? I **CAN'T** MAKE  
ANOTHER MISTAKE!  
I'VE GOT TO WAIT--  
**AND BE  
CERTAIN!**

"BUT I HAD MADE ANOTHER  
MISTAKE -- IN UNDERESTIMATING  
MYRNA! ONE NIGHT -- AT A  
PARTY IN DEAN'S STUDIO --"

SO YOU WANT ME TO SEE MORE  
OF YOU, EH? THAT WOULDN'T  
LEAVE ME MUCH TIME FOR  
PAINTING, MYRNA!

THAT'S JUST WHAT  
I HAVE IN MIND, DARLING!  
I'M **COMMISSIONING**  
YOU TO DO MY  
**PORTRAIT!**



"I BROODED FOR NEARLY A WEEK -- CONVINCED THAT MYRNA HAD WON AGAIN! AND THEN I REMEMBERED -- **LOVE IS A CHALLENGE!**"

DEAN ISN'T ANOTHER ROBERT -- HE'S WORTH FIGHTING FOR! STEPPING ASIDE FOR MYRNA **THIS TIME WILL MEAN SURRENDERING THE ONLY LOVE I'VE EVER KNOWN -- AND I'M NOT GOING TO DO IT!**



"DEAN WASN'T AT HIS STUDIO WHEN I ARRIVED -- BUT MYRNA **WAS!** THIS WAS MY CHANCE TO MEET HER ON EQUAL TERMS!"

MYRNA, YOU'VE SNUBBED AND BELITTLED ME FOR A LONG TIME -- AND IT USED TO MATTER! BUT **NOW IT'S ALMOST AMUSING, BECAUSE I KNOW THE REASON! YOU'RE ENVOIOUS -- HATEFULLY ENVOIOUS!**

NO -- JUST PROUD! **TOD PROUD TO SEE SOMEONE LIKE YOU PUSHING YOUR WAY AMONG PEOPLE WITH WHOM YOU DON'T RATE!**



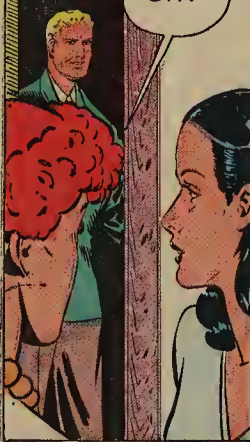
"MY RIDICULE WAS LIKE A Goad TO MYRNA! HER EYES FLASHED -- AND SHE LOST HER HEAD!"

DO YOU THINK I REALLY **LOVED** ROBERT -- ANY MORE THAN I LOVE DEAN NOW? I LED THEM ON BECAUSE I LOATHE **YOU** -- ENOUGH TO MAKE ME SWEAR I'D DO **ANYTHING** TO WIN THEM AWAY! I TURNED ROBERT AWAY FROM YOU -- AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE ANY BETTER LUCK WITH **DEAN!**



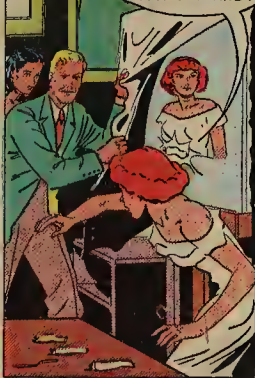
GLAD I GOT HERE IN TIME TO CATCH THE OUTBURST, MYRNA! IT CLINCHES SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN ON MY MIND FOR -- **QUITE A WHILE!**

**OH!**



I'D BEEN AFRAID YOUR PORTRAIT WAS TURNING OUT BADLY -- THAT I WASN'T CAPTURING YOU AS YOU REALLY ARE! NOW I KNOW HOW RIGHT I WAS -- **BECAUSE HERE'S HOW I SAW YOU, MYRNA!**

YOU BEAST! I **DESPISE** YOU -- GET **THAT** INTO YOUR PAINTING!



"AND THEN -- SHE WAS GONE! WE FACED EACH OTHER -- FREE, UNAFRAID! AND THEN, AT LONG LAST, I WAS IN HIS ARMS -- AND LIFE WAS A JOYOUS PROMISE!"

YOU WANTED TO BE SURE -- REMEMBER?

I AM, DARLING -- I AM!



**Y**ES, DEAN'S PAINTINGS SHOWED HE COULD READ A WOMAN'S HEART -- BECAUSE THE INDESCRIBABLE THING HE HAD CAUGHT IN MY PORTRAIT WAS SOMETHING I FELT NOW -- DOWN TO THE DEPTHS OF MY BEING! IT WAS LOVE -- LOVE THAT HAD BEEN CHALLENGED AND WON -- **FOREVER!**

THE END! (8)

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Gives You A Fuller, Alluring Bustline  
Instantly

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28  
to  
38



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